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2015 NFL PREVIEW

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NFL

NEW ERA

MILE-HIGH MANIA

Peyton Manning's laser focus on winning a title in Denver this season has Demaryius Thomas and the orange-clad denizens of Mile High primed for a Super run. But can the Broncos overcome the Colts and their old nemesis, the Patriots? Keep reading.

Photo by: Tim Umphrey

EDITOR'S LETTER

The 2015 NFL season will kick off accompanied by a couple of conspicuous absences (and I'm not even talking about Tom Brady or Le'Veon Bell). We all know that football is a dangerous, violent game, but as fans, we often prefer to ignore the inherent risks that the sport presents to its participants. The players themselves don't have that luxury. This offseason has seen a couple of high-profile early retirements, as **Patrick Willis** and Chris Borland have weighed short-term riches and glory against long-term health and decided in favor of the latter. It's a growing trend that we address in our feature story "Leaving It All Behind" on page 34.

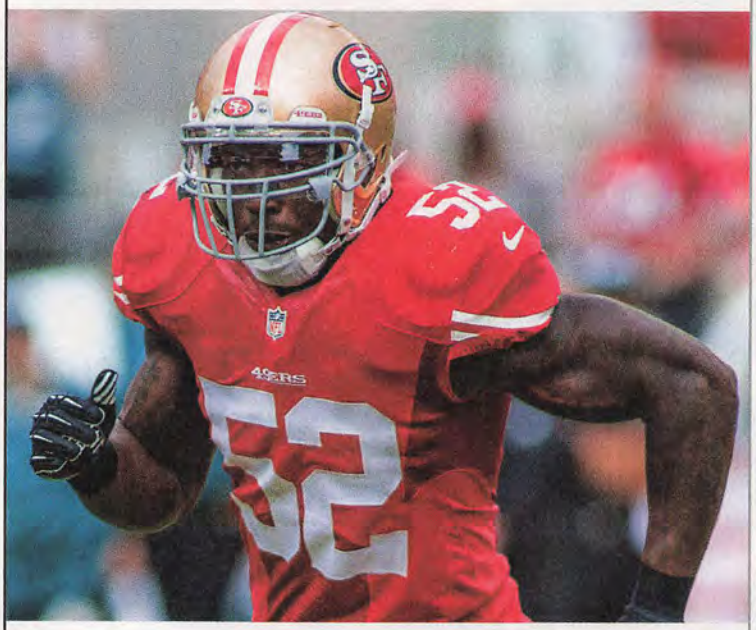
Even as scintillating new talents such as Jameis Winston and Marcus Mariota take their places on sports' biggest stage, the NFL's revolving door continues to spit out casualties of the game's intrinsic hazards. The NFL remains a sports and entertainment juggernaut — just check the TV ratings and obsessive 365-day NFL news cycle for evidence — but we can't pretend that there isn't a long-term downside to stepping onto a gridiron with other fleet, aggressive, helmet-clad weapons of mass destruction. Just ask Borland and Willis.

Thankfully for us fans, many of the world's greatest athletes have determined that playing the game is worth the risk. One of them is 39 and on a seemingly ageless, endless quest to burnish his legacy. Peyton Manning enters the 2015 season with his Super Bowl window still open, but with a clear sense of urgency driving him to make it happen this year. Can he overcome old rival Tom Brady — not to mention the NFC standard-bearer, be it Russell Wilson or Aaron Rodgers? We reveal our opinions in the pages that follow, but we value yours as well. Write to us at editor@athlonsports.com and let us know your opinion of this year's annual and what you expect out of the 2015 season. We'd love to know what you think.

Enjoy the season.

Rob Doster

Rob Doster
Senior Editor



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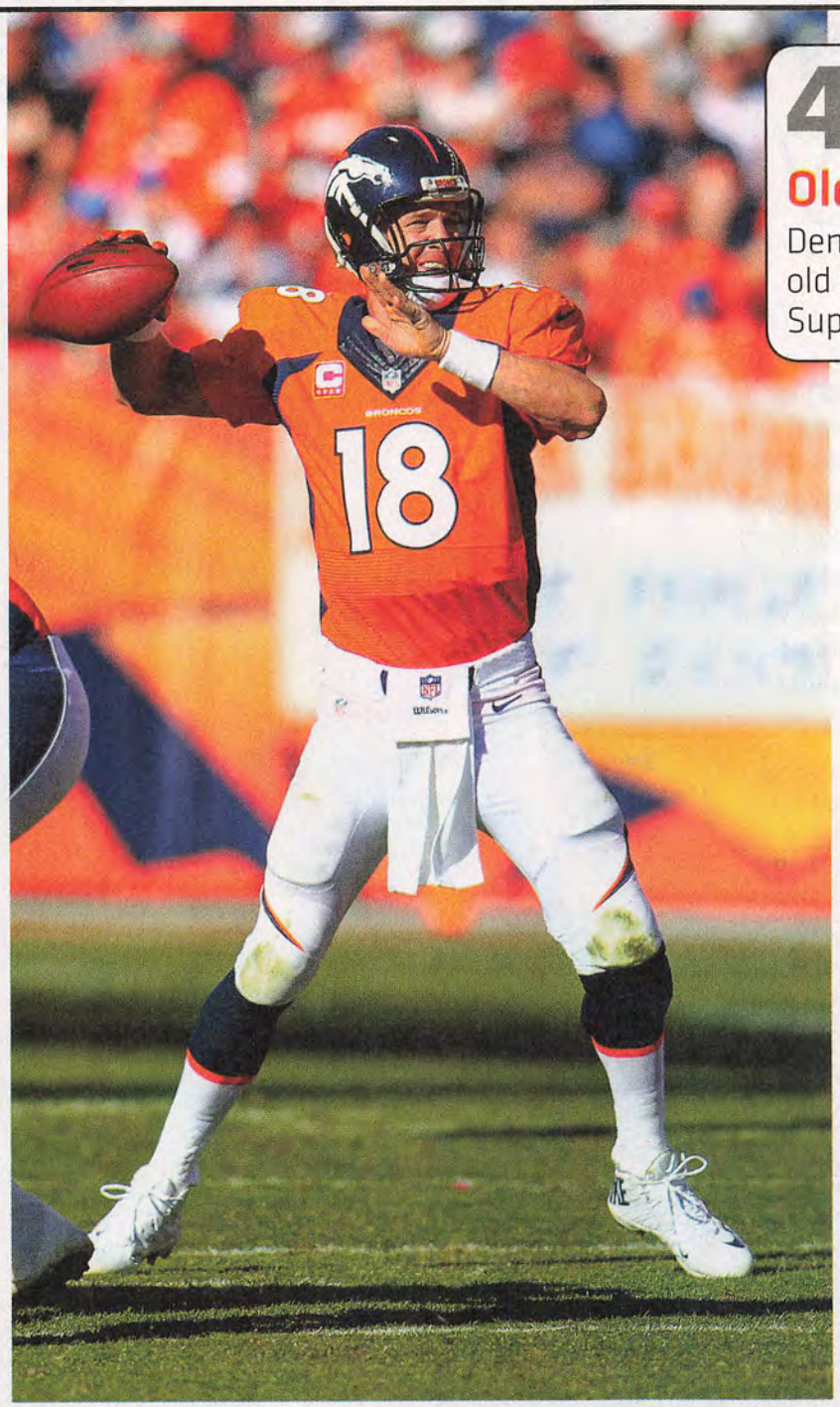
CONTENTS



42
Old is New Again
Denver hopes to give 39-year-old Peyton Manning one more Super run.

8 **15 Things to Watch**
Seattle's recovery, Suh's impact and 13 other storylines.

24 **Player Rankings**
We rank the NFL's best at each position.

34 **Leaving It All Behind**
Health concerns are forcing players to retire early.

38 **Something to Prove**
Undrafted free agents arrive with a chip on their shoulder.

46 **Power Struggles**
Coaches and GMs can have difficulty coexisting.

50 **Larry Fitzgerald Q&A**
Athlon sits down with the future Hall of Famer.

52 **Coaching Carousel**
Seven NFL franchises are under new leadership.

54 **2005 Draft Revisited**
Four Auburn Tigers were among a lackluster haul.

60 **2015 Draft Recap**
A pair of franchise QBs came off the board 1-2.

68 **College Top 25**
The Ohio State Buckeyes are poised to repeat.

70 **Fantasy Football**
Who's No. 1? Good question.

82 **Top Super Bowl Peformances**

86 **AFC Predictions**

152 **NFL Schedules**

154 **NFC Predictions**

220 **2014 NFL Stats**

224 **The Back Page**

Contributing Photographers: Brees, Roethlisberger, Barwin, Watt, Lynch, Ryan, Flacco, Watkins, Wilson, Newton, Quinn, Rodgers, Luck, Charles, Tannehill, Brady, Bell, Jackson: Tom DiPace; Palmer, Carr, Kaepernick, Rivers: Peter Brouillet; Bridgewater: Steve Jacobson; Dalton: Sportfolio; Manning: Tim Umphrey; Forte, Stafford: Tom Lynn; Winston: Tampa Bay Buccaneers; Mariota: Donn Jones/Tennessee Titans; Haden, Romo, Bortles, Beckham, Richardson: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

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160

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92 Miami
96 New England
100 New York

NORTH

104 Baltimore
108 Cincinnati
112 Cleveland
116 Pittsburgh

SOUTH

120 Houston
124 Indianapolis
128 Jacksonville
132 Tennessee

WEST

136 Denver
140 Kansas City
144 Oakland
148 San Diego

NFC

EAST

156 Dallas
160 New York
164 Philadelphia
168 Washington

NORTH

172 Chicago
176 Detroit
180 Green Bay
184 Minnesota

SOUTH

188 Atlanta
192 Carolina
196 New Orleans
200 Tampa Bay

WEST

204 Arizona
208 St. Louis
212 San Francisco
216 Seattle

Contributing Writers: Jim Armstrong, Scott Bordow, Michael Bradley, Mark Craig, Jeff Duncan, Scott Fowler, Eric Gilmore, Steven Godfrey, Kevin Goheen, Bruce Herman, Zac Jackson, Sean Keeler, Bob LeGere, John McClain, Terry McCromick, John Niyo, Ryan O'Halloran, Brendan Prunty, Dan Raley, Leo Roth, Dave Sheinin, Dan Shonka, Ethan Skolnick, Daryl Slater, Rick Stroud, Jim Thomas, Bill Trocchi, Ralph Vacchiano, Jason Wilde, Charean Williams, Aaron Wilson, Bernie Wilson, Phil Wilson

EXTRA POINTS

When 14–1 Isn't Good Enough

If a dude in Delaware didn't have Andrew Luck, he wouldn't have any luck at all.

In Week 2 last year, the Colts quarterback engineered a two-touchdown lead over the Eagles in the second half, only to watch it evaporate. His TD toss early in the fourth quarter reclaimed the advantage, but he was picked off to set up Philly's tying score with 3:25 remaining. At stake for Luck was exclusive custody of the NFL record for most starts to begin a career without losing twice in a row — a mark he shared with Dan Marino at 33. On the line for the unidentified Delaware dude was something far more tangible.

The man had placed a five-dollar, 15-team parlay bet against the spread in the state's sports lottery, and all he needed to become the contest's first winner since 2011 was for Indy to prevail by three or more points. His payday for a proposition that carried odds of about 32,000 to 1? A hundred grand.

Alas, if Indy fans' hearts broke as Philadelphia kicker Cody Parkey split the uprights with a tie-breaking field goal as the clock clicked to 0:00, one heart in Delaware came to a dead stop.

"Honestly, we were rooting for the guy," lottery director Vernon Kirk told ESPN. "It was agonizing to watch when you knew one player was so close to such a big payout."

HE SAID IT

"If he was female, I would date him." – Jerry Rice, referring to Joe Montana in a film about 49ers history

Amidst an Ugly Year: A Small Still Voice

The No Fun League found endless ways to live up to its nickname off the field in 2014, so this story was a refreshing change-of-pace:

It became obvious toward the end of training camp that Devon Still wasn't going to make Cincinnati's 53-man roster. The third-year defensive tackle, who had yet to make a professional start, was noticeably distracted. And for good reason: Still's four-year-old daughter Leah was battling stage 4 cancer with a 50-50 prognosis.

Instead of sending the former second-round draft pick out onto the mean streets of free agency, however, the Bengals signed him to their practice squad. The gesture meant that Still would continue to receive a paycheck and retain the health insurance that would cover the estimated $1 million it was going to take to try to keep Leah alive. In addition, he wouldn't be obligated to travel with the team, allowing him more time to spend with his daughter as she underwent chemotherapy and surgery.

The arrangement turned out to be largely moot, as Still performed well enough to see action in a dozen games. All the while, the team undertook a program to benefit Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in which nearly 15,000 of Still's No. 75 jerseys were sold (10,000 of which were manufactured on the Bengals' tab), raising $1.3 million. And the best news of all: As of the family's March announcement, Leah's cancer was in remission.

AP

Two-Man Game

On Sept. 30, 2001, Tom Brady made his first NFL start, with the apparent misfortune of it occurring against Peyton Manning and the Colts. The second-year unknown wasn't all that great in his starting debut, but with the help of two pick-6s from his defense, three rushing touchdowns from his backs and three field goals from Adam Vinatieri, the Patriots rolled to a 44–13 triumph. For 13 years, that stood up as the largest margin of victory in the 15 meetings (including the playoffs) between the two now-superstar signal-callers.

Brady and Manning met again in Foxborough last Nov. 2. The Pats-Broncos showdown marked the first time in NFL history that quarterbacks with 150 wins opposed each other. It also was the first time that QB combatants came into a game so hot that each had amassed a double-digit TD total without an interception in their previous three games.

Unlike that initial confrontation, when neither managed 200 yards, this one was an aerial extravaganza. Each put it up more than 50 times (yet another NFL first), combining for 771 yards. Surprisingly, it was just the second instance in their hostilities that both eclipsed 300. Brady accounted for "only" 333 of that total, but when the atmosphere was finally cleared of footballs and with the home crowd chanting "Bra-dy's Bet-ter!" he was a 43–21 victor in the second-largest margin in their head-to-head high jinks.

Knuckleheads on (and off) Parade

Chafed because he got nary a carry when the Steelers toppled Tennessee on Monday night, Nov. 17, LeGarrette Blount walked off the field before the game was over. On Tuesday, he was released. New England, long an island of misfit boys, signed him within 48 hours. The move was especially curious because the Patriots were fresh off a game in which Jonas Gray had scored four times and rushed for 201 yards — 70 more than in his previous two-plus years in the NFL combined. What seemed to be madness in Bill Belichick's method was, as usual, opportune.

By the time Sunday rolled around, Gray was a *Sports Illustrated* cover boy, his jersey was on display at the Pro Football Hall of Fame — and he was in the doghouse. He failed to start against Detroit, evidently because he'd missed the Friday practice, and he never left the pine. Instead, Shane Vereen saw 62 snaps, and Belichick even dusted off Brandon Bolden (a former PED suspendee) who hadn't sniffed the rock in six weeks. Blount — a Pat for all of 72 hours — had his number called 12 times in 17 snaps. He turned the totes into two TDs and 78 yards — only two fewer than Gray would collect the rest of the season.

The postscript is that crime in Foxborough, as has been proven repeatedly, does pay. Bolden got a new two-year deal. The chastened Gray was retained, as was Blount, who's been suspended for the 2015 opener due to an arrest for marijuana possession. Vereen, the "nice guy" is this dope opera, was shown the door, and he signed with the Giants.

Hurry-Up Offense

Everyone was in a hurry in Week 10, it seemed. The slate produced some of the hastiest heroics in league lore.

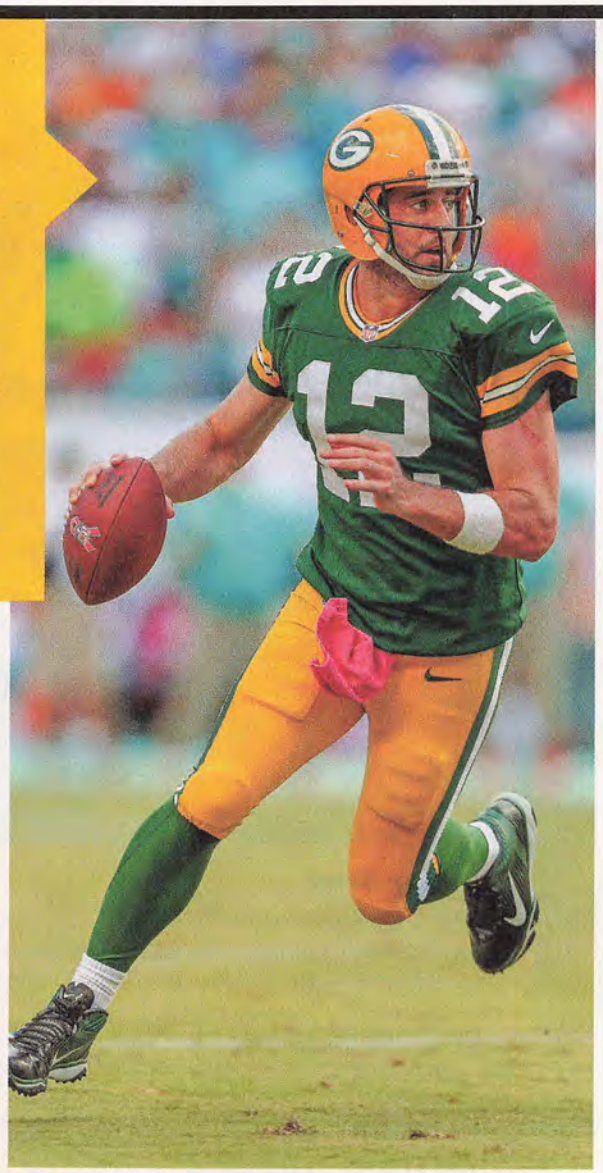
When the day started, only three quarterbacks in the last 30 years had thrown five touchdown passes in a span of less than 17 minutes. When it ended, the trio had become a quintet.

Not only did Aaron Rodgers require a mere 16:25 to flick five scores against Chicago, but he also added another to match Daryle Lamonica's NFL record for a half. When the chemtrails cleared, Green Bay held the second-largest halftime lead in history at 42–0. Earlier in the day, in Oakland, Peyton Manning needed 18 more seconds than Rodgers to get it done, but he strafed the Raiders for a five-spot intersecting the second and third quarters.

The scoring tsunami wasn't limited to the quarterbacks.

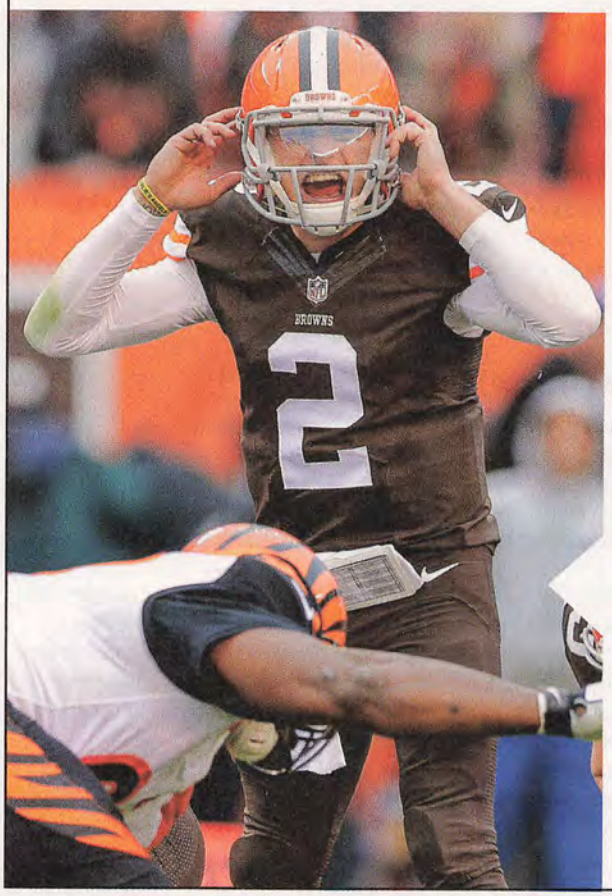
Facing the Rams in Arizona, the Cardinals needed just 84 seconds to tally a pair of defensive TDs in the fourth quarter, as Antonio Cromartie's 14-yard fumble return followed Patrick Peterson's 30-yard pick-6 in a span of four St. Louis snaps.

The day's honorable mention for quick quirkiness went to Lions punter Sam Martin. He didn't change the scoreboard, but in a duration of 16:36, he executed two fake punts, completing passes on both (one for a first down). It was just the second time in the past decade that a punter had attempted more than one aerial in a game.



Two-and-a-Half Men

When the league's lengthy inventory of embarrassing publicity included news that Le-Sean McCoy had left a 20-cent "gratuity" for a $61.56 tab last September, actor Charlie Sheen manned up with a $1,000 offer to the snubbed waiter. Later, Chad Johnson kept the good karma flowing with a $300 tip on a $351.92 bill in a Montreal establishment. "Sundays are slow, this should help," he inscribed on the receipt, "I love you." Ex-Ocho subsequently retweeted a message from a woman who was so uplifted by the gesture that she said she abandoned her plans to commit suicide.



HE SAID IT

"Jerry comes across as a rich a-hole." – A Jimmy Johnson email after Jerry Jones said he had no plans to put the two-time Super Bowl-winning coach in the Cowboys Rings of Honor

Like A Wrecking Ball

Johnny Manziel crowed after the draft that he was going to come in and "wreck the league." He almost accomplished that in his first start, but not exactly in the way he boasted. The statistical shrapnel from his 30–0 shellacking by the Bengals — the first shutout of his career at any level, he said — included this:

- The Browns ran only 38 plays, the fewest in an NFL game in 15 years.
- Their 10 drives ended with seven punts, two interceptions and the final whistle.
- The average length of their drives was not even a "first down" — 9.4 yards.
- Manziel completed 10-of-18 passes for 80 yards and rushed for just 13 on five carries.
- He was sacked three times and lost seven yards on two designed runs.

"Very humbling," he admitted.

Manziel: AP; Rodgers: Tom DiPace

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Points Taken

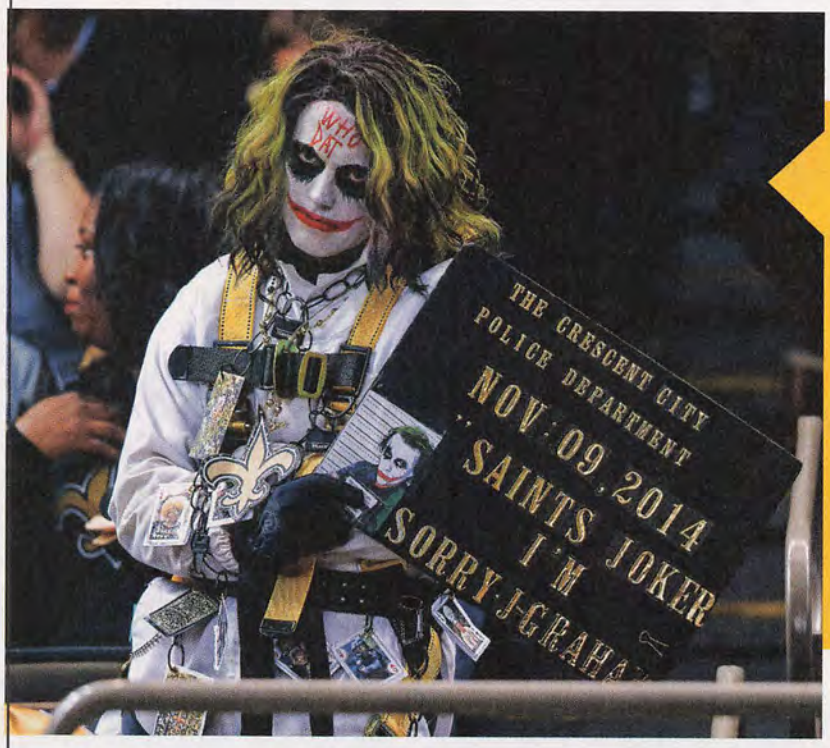
In Week 4 of the 2012 season, the Jaguars-Bengals game was a pick 'em. In Week 16 of the 2014 campaign, Jacksonville was a three-point favorite over the Titans. In between, the Jags (who won seven times, but were outscored by 521 points) were underdogs in 42 consecutive games.

When Jacksonville finally snapped the "dog" streak on the week of their 21–13 triumph over Tennessee, it was the first NFL pairing in 21 years between two clubs both at least 10 games below .500 that late in a season. Unlike the previous stinker in 1993 (Patriots 7, Bengals 2), this one failed to live up to its lack of promise. The Thursday Night Football affair was, in fact, such a (relatively) well-played game that it was just the third turnover-free contest in history between two 10-loss teams.

So, Oakland, you're on the clock. The Raiders own the longest active underdog streak at 24.

HE SAID IT

"Anything goes on any given Sunday. Especially on a Monday night." – Jon Gruden during an MNF telecast



Holy Butt Cheeks, Batman!

The contentious mystery about what position Jimmy Graham actually plays for franchise designation compensation purposes has been solved — by The Joker.

When the Saints' hybrid pass-catcher jumped into the front row of the Mercedes-Benz Superdome stands in celebration of a touchdown last November, a heavily made-up, lime green-clad fan decked out as the Supervillain from Batman reached down and clutched the most accessible portion of Graham's anatomy. One Scott McGowan of Baton Rouge not only grabbed a handful of hind quarter, but gave it four purposeful squeezes. More like a massage, really.

"That'll probably be my last (leap into the stands) after I got groped up," grumbled Graham afterwards. "Some people were trying to thank me a little too much."

The fondling fan, who says he's been a season ticket holder for 12 years, concluded: "He's definitely a tight end."

HE SAID IT

"I was like, 'You're a white defensive lineman, just run the ball in.'" – J.J. Watt on his embarrassment at seeing his end zone dance on the Jumbotron after scoring with an interception against the Bills

Bortles, Watt: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports; Joker: AP

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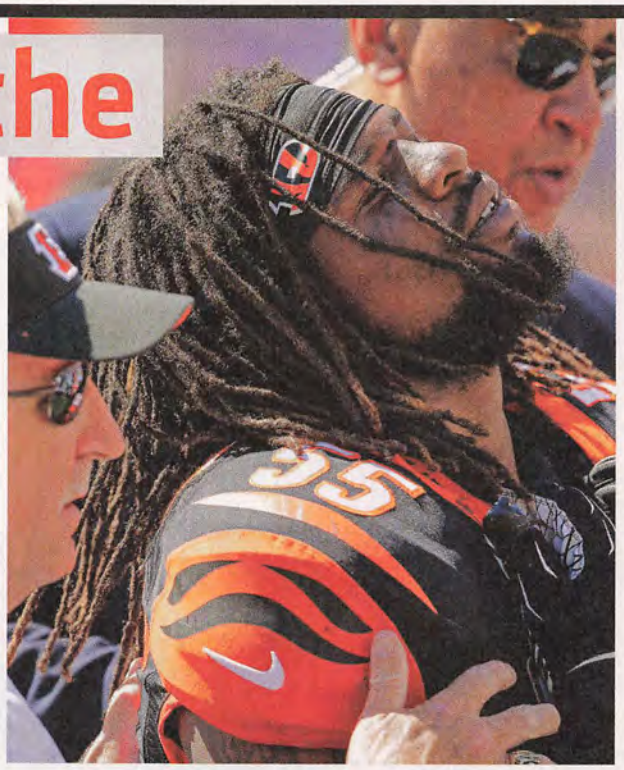


AUG. 30 The Vikings waive linebacker Mike Zimmer, depriving him of the opportunity to play for unrelated head coach Mike Zimmer.

SEPT. 7 The Rams open the season with three undrafted quarterbacks on their active roster.

SEPT. 7 **Vontaze Burfict**, attempting a sack, must leave with a concussion after spearing Joe Flacco in the cup.

SEPT. 14 Every quarterback who throws an interception sees his team lose the game.

SEPT. 14 Jacksonville's first snap in Washington territory comes with 8:45 left in the contest.

SEPT. 21 There are 25 points scored in the Patriots victory over the Raiders — 10 by Stephen Gostkowski, nine by Sebastian Janikowski and six by Rob Gronkowski.

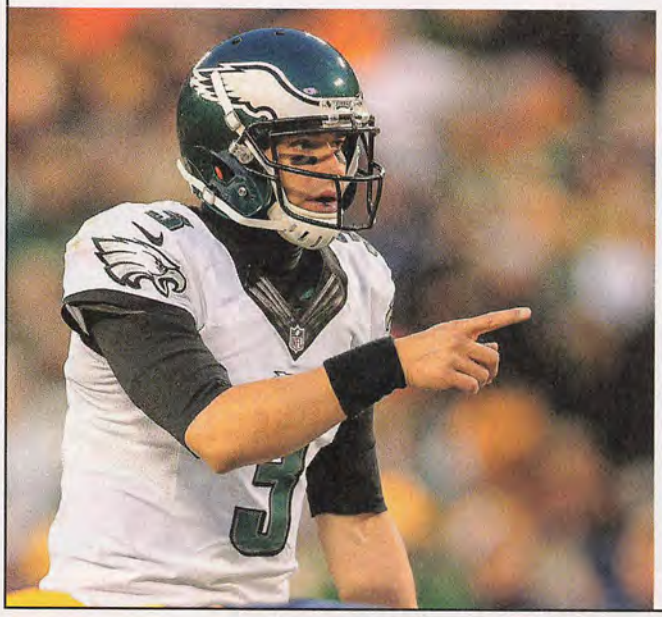
SEPT. 21 The Cardinals have only nine guys on the field when they block a 49ers field goal.

SEPT. 21 Lions linebacker Stephen Tulloch tears his ACL celebrating a sack, then claims afterwards, "I'd do it again, brother."

SEPT. 28 The Packers top the Bears, 38–17, as for just the second time in NFL history, neither team punts.

OCT. 6 Percy Harvin has three touchdowns against Washington called back, including two on successive plays, because of penalties.

OCT. 12 For a few minutes of real time, all four games currently underway are tied during the second quarter.



OCT. 12 The Bucs run a dozen consecutive plays that fail to gain a yard against the Ravens.

OCT. 19 Both Drew Brees and Brian Hoyer throw 10 consecutive passes without completing one — their teams' longest droughts in 12 and 20 years, respectively.

OCT. 26 The Cardinals and Eagles combine for 104 passing attempts, yet no quarterbacks are sacked.

OCT. 26 For the second time in three seasons, the Patriots score three touchdowns in less than a minute.

OCT. 26 Jets quarterback Geno Smith completes more passes to the Bills (three) than to his own team (two).

NOV. 2 Carson Palmer wins for a fifth straight time when he is intercepted in his first drive.

NOV. 8 Justin Bieber attends the Steelers' weekly Bible study.

NOV. 9 After winning their previous two games with scores at 0:00 and 1:48, Detroit does it again at 0:29.

NOV. 9 Anquan Boldin drops as many passes (four) in the first half as he did in all of 2013.

NOV. 9 After recording only one takeaway in their first nine games, the Jets come up with four in an upset of Pittsburgh.

NOV. 9 Jay Cutler falls to 1–10 with 22 interceptions against his team's archrival, the Packers.

NOV. 13 The Bills have not scored a TD on their last 21 "drives."

NOV. 16 The Chiefs dump the Seahawks, 24–20, despite completing only two passes (for nine yards apiece) to wide receivers.

NOV. 16 **Mark Sanchez** tops 300 yards and throws for multiple TDs in his first start for the Eagles — something he never did in 62 starts as a Jet.

NOV. 16 J.J. Watt is flagged for roughing the punter twice in the first half.

Burfict, Sanchez: AP; Sanders: twitter screenshot

NOV. 17 Ben Roethlisberger moves to 18–0 when opposing a rookie quarterback.

NOV. 18 After his Wikipedia entry lists him as deceased, Emmanuel Sanders tweets a photo of himself surrounded by comely females, which he captions, "I must be in heaven."

NOV. 20 When the Raiders upset the Chiefs, teams with QB Matt Schaub on their roster end their 24-game losing streak.

NOV. 27 Although there never before had been two games ending in a 19–3 score in any NFL season, the Seahawks prevail 19–3 for the second straight week.

NOV. 30 Washington ends its drought of nine entire games and 38 futile attempts by converting a play of 3rd-and-10 or longer into a first down.

NOV. 30 Home teams outscore the visitors 72–16 in the early-kickoff portion of the slate.

NOV. 30 The Steelers tie an NFL record for first downs in a loss by recording 36.

DEC. 3 Peter King calculates that Colin Kaepernick uses 87 words to respond to the 32 questions asked of him at San Francisco's weekly presser.

DEC. 3 Thirteen years after being released by the Cowboys, Ryan Leaf is released from prison.

DEC. 4 Arian Foster conducts his entire post-practice interview speaking with a British accent.

DEC. 4 For just the second time ever, a quarterback (Tony Romo) completes 80 percent of his passes and a teammate (DeMarco Murray) rushes for more than 175 yards.

DEC. 7 The Panthers, who had scored a total of 30 first-quarter points in their first 12 games, hang 17 on the Saints in the first nine minutes.

DEC. 7 After never having allowed a single player to record more than 3.0 sacks in a game against them in their history, the Dolphins do so for a third time in 2014.

DEC. 7 St. Louis' captains for the pregame toss in Washington are the six players who were taken with the draft picks dealt for Robert Griffin III.

DEC. 7 The Seahawks limit a third straight foe to its season low in points and yards.

DEC. 14 Seven different Packers receivers drop one pass apiece in a loss to Buffalo.

DEC. 15 Of Jay Cutler's five "completions" that travel more than 10 yards, three are caught by the Saints.

DEC. 15 Jets owner Woody Johnson, who employs John Idzik as his GM, accidentally "favorites" a tweet from a fan that says: "@woodyjohnson4 You really need to #Fireldzik at this point. The roster is garbagio."

DEC. 18 The Titans reach the end zone on an opening drive for the first time in 18 games but lose to the Jaguars anyway.

DEC. 21 The Bucs, Bills and Colts combine for 30 rushing yards on 37 carries in their losses.

DEC. 28 On the 229th pass of his career, Ryan Lindley throws his first touchdown.

DEC. 28 Antonio Brown takes a punt to the house for the third time in his career — all against Cincinnati.

DEC. 28 Kansas City is the third team (and first in 54 years) to go through a season with no TD catches by a wide receiver.

DEC. 28 Russell Wilson fumbles for the 12th and 13th (and final) times of 2014 — all of them recovered by his own team.

DEC. 28 Seattle ends its regular season with a 29th victory by 10 or more points since suffering its last loss by that margin.

JAN. 3 Ryan Lindley averages 1.3 yards on his 32 dropbacks in Arizona's wild card loss to Carolina, failing to gain yardage on 21 of them.

JAN. 4 Matthew Stafford falls to 0–18 in his career (playoffs included) in road games against teams that finished the season over .500.

JAN. 4 Andy Dalton starts and finishes his fourth playoff game without ever having thrown a pass with the lead.

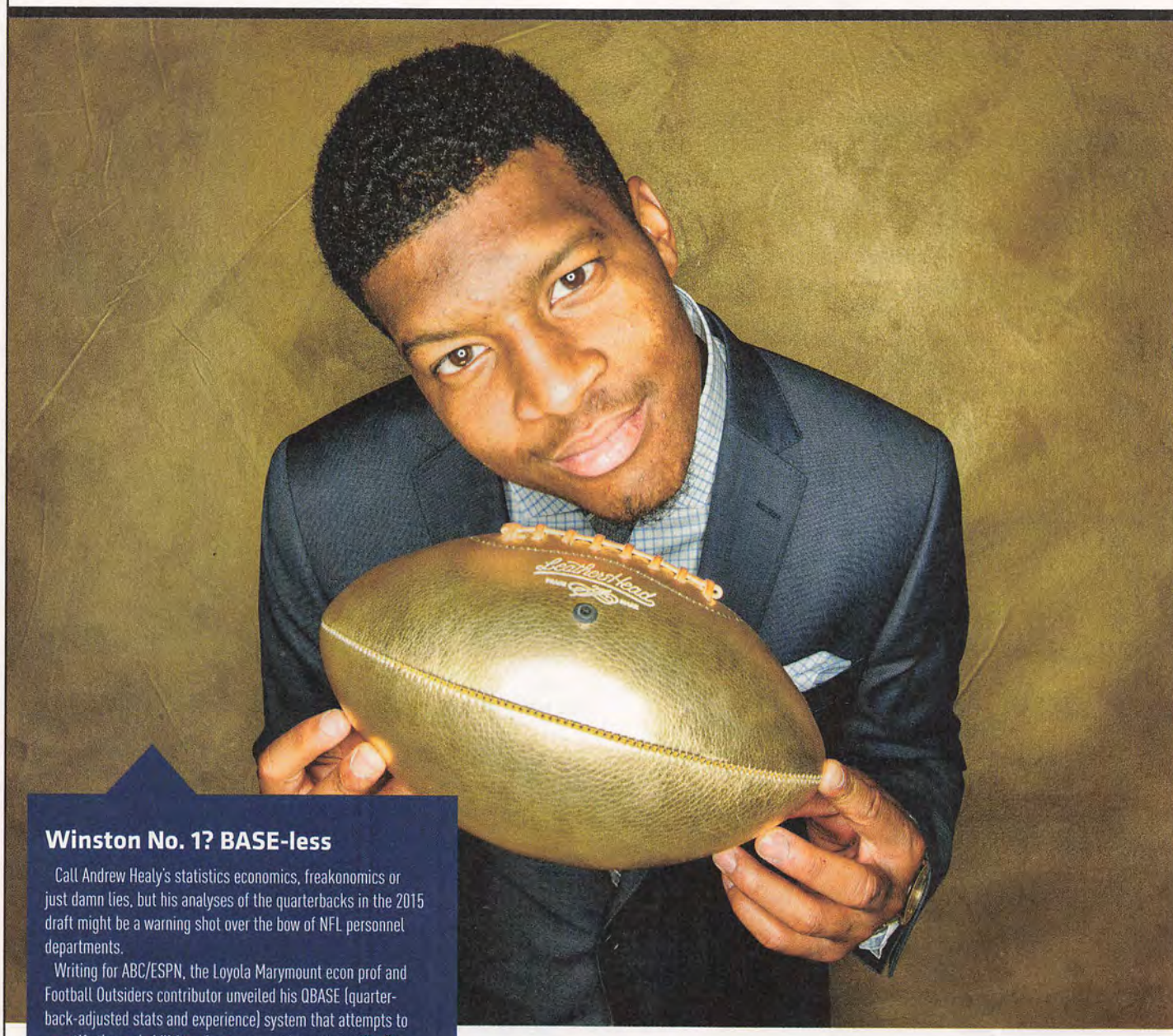
JAN. 18 Russell Wilson targets Jermaine Kearse six times in the NFC Championship Game, the first four of which are intercepted, the fifth falling incomplete and the last resulting in a TD to win the game in OT.

JAN. 18 For the eighth consecutive time (including the last four in which the winning team trailed in the fourth quarter), the NFC title contest is decided by seven or fewer points.

JAN. 29 The LOWEST price of a Super Bowl ticket on the NFL ticket exchange website, three days before the game, is $10,375.

JAN. 30 New Buffalo coach Rex Ryan, whose arm is tattooed with his wife wearing a Jets jersey, has her shirt re-inked from green to blue.

FEB. 1 Russell Wilson's late interception to hand New England the Super Bowl title is the first thrown by a quarterback from the opponent's 1-yard line all season.



Winston No. 1? BASE-less

Call Andrew Healy's statistics economics, freakonomics or just damn lies, but his analyses of the quarterbacks in the 2015 draft might be a warning shot over the bow of NFL personnel departments.

Writing for ABC/ESPN, the Loyola Marymount econ prof and Football Outsiders contributor unveiled his QBASE (quarterback-adjusted stats and experience) system that attempts to quantify the probabilities of pro success for college QBs. The byzantine mathematical mashup takes into account such factors as the strength of defenses faced and the quality of his teammates, then conducts 50,000 simulations to estimate what his performance will look like three to five years after he's drafted. The biggest casualty of the calculus? Jameis Winston.

"Even ignoring his off-field concerns," wrote Healy bluntly, "the odds are against Winston ever becoming an elite quarterback." It's even worse than that. The author proceeded to consign the No. 1 overall pick to the same Bustville zip code as Tim Couch and David Carr, cautioning that "those same warning signs apply."

Conversely, Marcus Mariota was a darling of the data. The No. 2 selection received the highest QBASE projection of the past four drafts, and the seventh-best since 1995, behind guys named Rivers, Palmer, McNabb, Wilson, Griffin III and Manning.

The probabilities of the fates of the six quarterbacks Healy are assessed in the chart to the right:

HE SAID IT

"I just haven't gotten around to it." – Patrick Peterson when asked why he hadn't yet cashed a check for $15,361,000 he'd been given nearly a month earlier

	Drafted	Bust	Adequate Starter	Upper Tier	Elite
Garrett Grayson	No. 75 (Saints)	82.9%	12.2%	4.3%	0.6%
Brett Hundley	No. 147 (Packers)	30.3%	39.2%	20.3%	10.2%
Sean Mannion	No. 89 (Rams)	70.9%	19.3%	7.5%	2.4%
Marcus Mariota	No. 2 (Titans)	22.8%	40.5%	24.1%	12.6%
Bryce Petty	No. 103 (Jets)	80.2%	13.7%	5.2%	0.9%
Jameis Winston	No. 1 (Bucs)	61.3%	25.8%	9.5%	3.3%

Tim Mantoani

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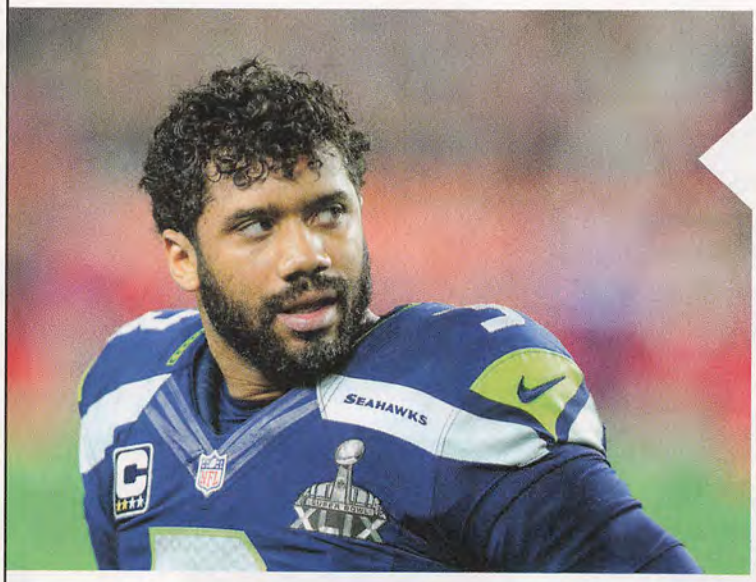
15 THINGS TO WATCH IN 2015

by Charean Williams



1. SEAHAWKS' RECOVERY

The Seahawks spent the entire offseason picking up the pieces from the ill-fated, goal-line play in Super Bowl XLIX. It might take more than duct tape and Super Glue to put the team's mojo back together. Coach Pete Carroll took responsibility for the second-down play call from the 1-yard line that resulted in a Russell Wilson interception with 20 seconds left.

The call now arguably ranks as the most second-guessed in NFL history, with even running back Marshawn Lynch questioning why the Seahawks chose not to run the football. Conspiracy theorists, including some Seahawks players, wondered whether the Seahawks were positioning Wilson to play the part of hero instead of Lynch.

Carroll and his staff will have to regain the trust of the locker room before they begin a quest to become the first team to reach three Super Bowls in a row since the Buffalo Bills (1991-93).

2. WATT THE MVP

The chants began in NRG Stadium at midseason: "M-V-P!" And Texans defensive end J.J. Watt became a serious contender for the award after the Texans finished 9–7, a seven-win improvement over 2013. Watt had 27 tackles, 11 sacks, 20 hits on the quarterback, a touchdown (while playing tight end) and a safety in the final five games when Houston went 4–1. He finished with 20.5 sacks to become the first player with at least 20 sacks in two different seasons.

Although Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers won the award with 31 of the 50 votes, Watt became the first defensive player this century to garner more than three votes; he finished second with 13 votes.

Watt already owns two Defensive Player of the Year awards and should match Lawrence Taylor with three. But Watt stands a decent chance of becoming only the third defensive player ever to win MVP honors, joining Taylor (1986) and Alan Page (1971).

3. COLTS' NEXT STEP

The Colts went 11–5 and lost in the wild-card round in 2012. They went 11–5 in 2013 and won a wild-card playoff game. They took another step last year, going 11–5 and winning not only a wild-card game but also reaching the AFC Championship Game with a road victory over the Broncos in a divisional game.

Indianapolis got older in the offseason, adding running back Frank Gore (32), receiver Andre Johnson (33), linebacker Trent Cole (32) and offensive lineman Todd Herremans (32). Chuck Pagano insists that the Colts also got better. But the coach enters 2015 as a lame duck. Is it Super Bowl or bust for him?

Wilson: AP; Watt: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports; Brady: Tom DiPace; Suh: Tami Chappell

4. CUTLER'S LAST STAND?

The Bears' new braintrust — general manager Ryan Pace, coach John Fox and offensive coordinator Adam Gase — has no ties to Jay Cutler. They have not given the quarterback a vote of confidence, either. Cutler's contract, which has a salary-cap hit of $16.5 million this season, offered them no choice but to ride with him this season.

Cutler, 32, has earned a reputation as a "coach killer." He has played for three other head coaches besides Fox, and Gase becomes his sixth offensive coordinator. Cutler, the 11th overall pick in 2006, barely has a winning record in his nine-year career at 61–58. He has only one playoff appearance and only one postseason victory, and even that 2010 season ended in controversy.

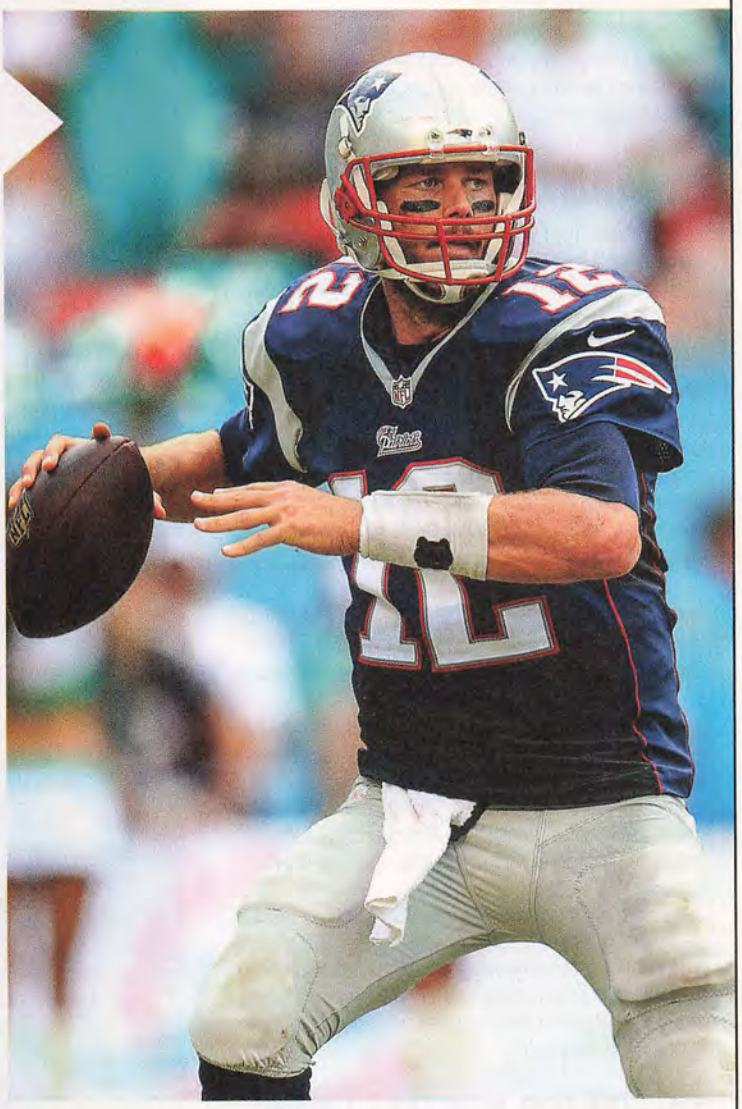
That's why Cutler's seventh season in Chicago might well be his last.

5. RING-BEARER BRADY

Tom Brady joined Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw as the only quarterbacks ever to win four Super Bowls. Only Hall of Fame defensive lineman Charles Haley has more, with five.

But Brady's titles have not come without controversy. Haley stands among those to call out Brady after Deflategate, tabbing Brady's championships as "tainted." In the Spygate scandal, the NFL penalized coach Bill Belichick and the Patriots for video-taping the Jets' sideline defensive signals.

Brady, who turns 38 in August, has a record 21 playoff wins and plans to play into his 40s. No matter how many titles he wins or how many seasons he plays, Brady's Hall of Fame career likely ends with debate about his legacy.



6. 49ERS' MAKEOVER

The signs of unrest were there last offseason. After a third consecutive trip to the NFC Championship Game, it became glaringly obvious that a split was coming between Jim Harbaugh and the 49ers after the 2014 season. But who could have predicted all the other changes that have occurred since Harbaugh left for the University of Michigan?

Their inside linebackers surprised everyone by retiring. Their starting cornerbacks left in free agency. Frank Gore and Michael Crabtree, key weapons in the offense, found new homes, too. The 49ers released Ray McDonald and Jonathan Martin.

Torrey Smith and Reggie Bush are among the players added in the team's makeover as new offensive coordinator Geep Chryst tries to improve on a unit that ranked 30th in passing and 25th in scoring. Thus begins a new era of 49ers football.

7. SUH'S IMPACT

The Dolphins made the biggest noise in free agency, nabbing Ndamukong Suh with a record-breaking deal. The Pro Bowl defensive tackle signed a six-year, $114 million contract that guarantees him $60 million in the first three years. He joins a defensive line that includes defensive ends Cameron Wake and Olivier Vernon, who have combined for 56.5 sacks the past three seasons.

Suh, 28, has 239 tackles and 36 sacks the past five seasons, leading all NFL defensive tackles. He also has 35 penalties in his career, including seven last season, which leads all defensive tackles.

He should have an instant impact on a defense that ranked 12th overall, including 24th against the run.

8. BRADFORD'S HEALTH

Sam Bradford considered retiring after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee for the second time in nine months. He has played only seven games the past two seasons, while making $23 million with the Rams.

But Bradford, the No. 1 overall pick in 2010, gets a fresh start in Philadelphia after the Eagles swapped Nick Foles and draft picks for Bradford. The Eagles are hoping Bradford stays healthy, though they have options behind him.

Bradford, 27, has an 18–30–1 record with a 58.6 completion percentage, 11,065 passing yards, 59 touchdowns and 38 interceptions. The move to Chip Kelly's offense might be just what Bradford needs. If he can stay healthy ....

9. MANZIEL'S WILD RIDE

Johnny Manziel has earned nicknames other than Johnny Football since arriving in the NFL. He slipped to No. 22 on draft day and failed to beat out Brian Hoyer until late in the year. Manziel then went 0–2, with a 51.4 completion percentage, 175 passing yards, no touchdowns, two interceptions and a 42.0 passer rating before injuring his hamstring.

He missed a rehab session on his hamstring the final week of the season, prompting questions about his work ethic and commitment to the game.

Manziel voluntarily entered substance-abuse rehab during the offseason, spending 10 weeks trying to get things right. Now the questions become: Can he repair the damage in the locker room, win the starting job and succeed as an NFL quarterback?

10. RICE'S SECOND CHANCE?

Greg Hardy signed with the Cowboys. Ray McDonald signed with the Bears. But Ray Rice can't find work.

A judge convicted Hardy of domestic abuse, but he walked when charges were dropped because his accuser failed to appear in court for his appeal. McDonald was cleared of domestic violence accusations, but the 49ers released him in December after he was investigated for sexual assault. Rice missed last season after striking his then-fiancée unconscious in an elevator during the 2014 offseason.

The league reinstated Rice in December, but he has yet to convince anyone to take a chance on him. Rice, 28, has 6,180 rushing yards, a 4.3 yards per carry average and 37 total touchdowns in six seasons. But he had a career-low 3.1 yards per carry average in 2013, his last season, when he gained only 660 yards with four touchdowns on the ground.

11. RYAN'S UPSTATE MOVE

Rex Ryan's first order of business after leaving the Jets and joining the Bills was changing the color of his tattoo from green to blue. Bills fans were rejuvenated by the hiring of Ryan and the team's offseason moves, giving them thoughts of a playoff berth for the first time in 16 years.

The Bills look similar defensively after re-signing Jerry Hughes, returning the biggest names to a unit that finished fourth in yards allowed and led the league with 54 sacks. The offense, though, has a new look after trades for quarterback Matt Cassel and running back LeSean McCoy and the signings of tight end Charles Clay and wide receiver Percy Harvin.

All of it has turned the Bills into a popular playoff pick.

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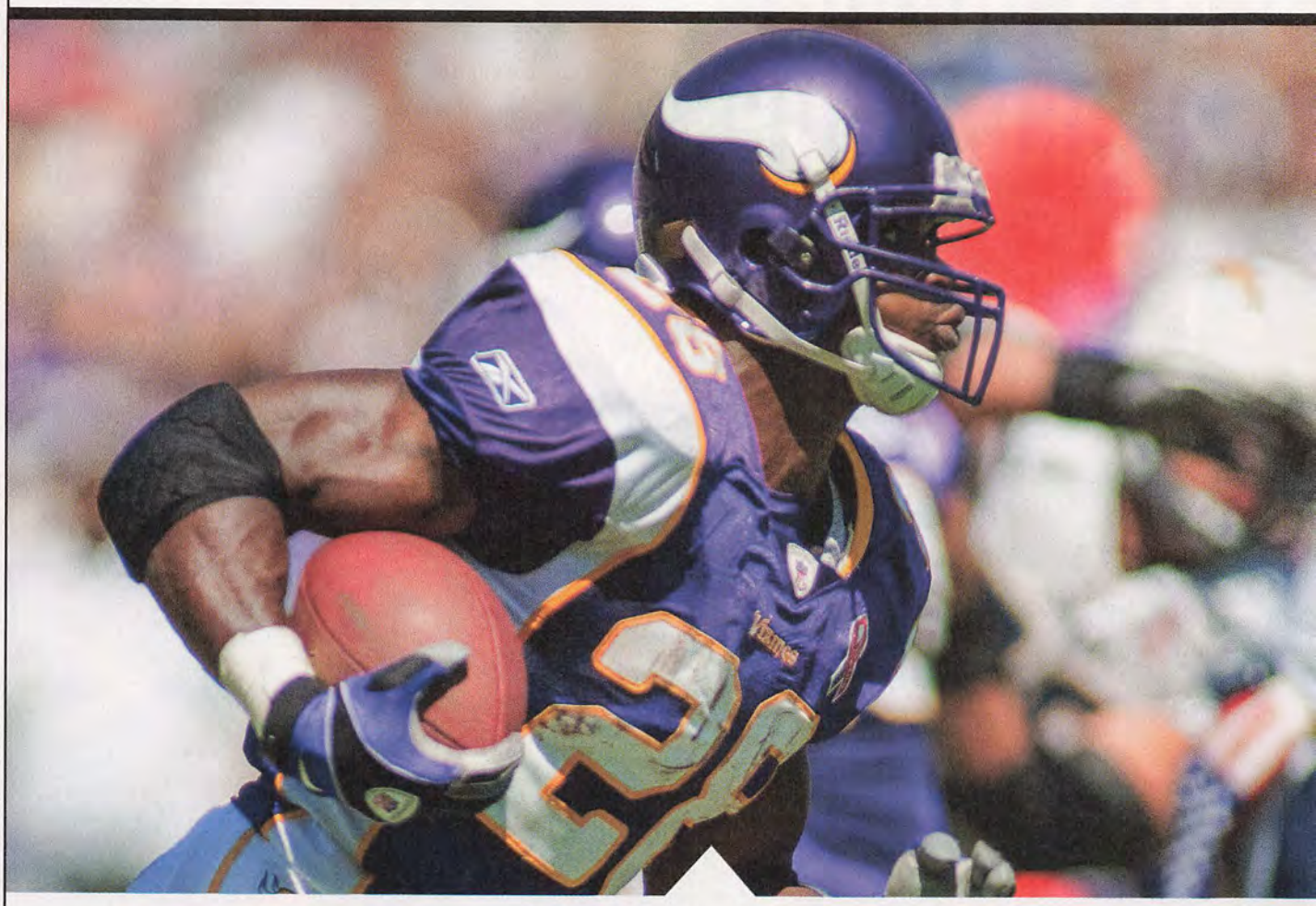

12. RG3'S FUTURE

The Redskins gave up a king's ransom to get Robert Griffin III with the second overall pick in 2012. It took only two years for Griffin to lose his status as "franchise quarterback," and he could end up elsewhere next season. The Redskins picked up Griffin's option for 2016 at $16.2 million, but they still could rescind it if he stays healthy. Therein lies the problem....

Griffin never has played a full season injury-free, and twice, when healthy, he has been benched. He showed potential his rookie season, earning Offensive Rookie of the Year honors after completing 65.6 percent of his passes for 3,200 yards with 20 touchdowns, five interceptions and a 102.4 passer rating. His career, though, has gone downhill since, and he enters 2015 with a tenuous hold on the team's starting quarterback job.

13. NFL'S RETURN TO L.A.

The Rams, Chargers and Raiders all are prime candidates to move to Los Angeles next year. The nation's second-largest city hasn't had an NFL team to call its own since 1994 when the Rams relocated to St. Louis and the Raiders returned to Oakland. Now, the Rams and Raiders have an interest in returning to L.A.

The NFL owners annual spring meetings included L.A.-area stadium proposals, with league executives expressing confidence professional football is on the verge of returning to L.A. Rams owner Stan Kroenke owns 60 acres in Inglewood, Calif., and the Raiders and Chargers have a joint proposal for a privately financed $1.7 billion stadium they would share in Carson, Calif.

Los Angeles is the favorite to land the NFL Draft in 2016 and would be a future Super Bowl and possibly Pro Bowl host with a new billion-dollar stadium.

14. PETERSON'S FRESH START

Adrian Peterson played one game for Minnesota last season. Will it be his last time in a Vikings uniform? The running back requested a new start elsewhere after being reinstated to the NFL on April 16. The Vikings continue to insist that Peterson will play for them in 2015, and Peterson, scheduled to make $12.75 million in base salary, likely means more to Minnesota than to another team.

He has six 1,000-yard rushing seasons since the Vikings made him a first-round pick in 2007, including his MVP season of 2012 in which he ran for 2,097 yards. Peterson turned 30 this spring and has 2,054 carries. But with fresh legs and much motivation, he could help Minnesota win its first playoff game since 2009 if he fully commits to the Vikings' cause.

15. BUCS GREAT HOPE

Bucs general manager Jason Licht became enamored with Jameis Winston during the Florida State quarterback's Heisman season. He never dreamed, though, that his team would end up with the No. 1 overall pick in the 2015 draft. For the fifth time, the Bucs have used a first-round choice on a quarterback. The other four didn't work out so well.

In their 39-year history, the Bucs have had 36 starting quarterbacks, including three the past two years. It's why they have had only 10 postseason appearances in their history, and six postseason victories. Winston has given Bucs fans hope yet again that the future will be different.

Peter Brouillet

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NFL Player Rankings

By Dan Shonka,
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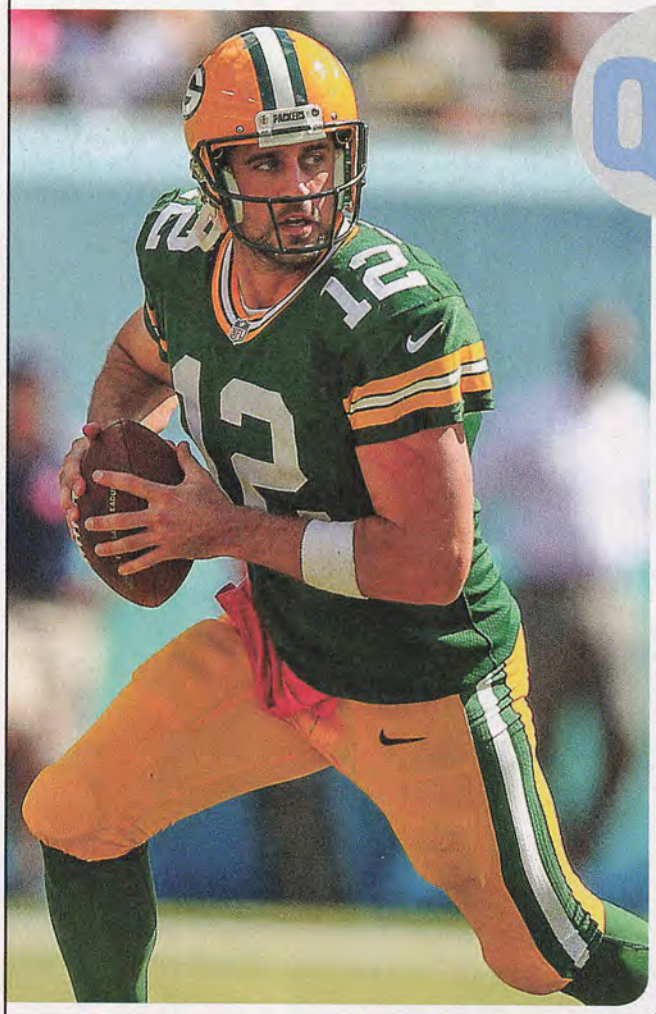


QB

1. AARON RODGERS, GREEN BAY
The consistent and confident signal caller was awarded his second league MVP after he completed 341-of-520 passes for 4,381 yards and 38 touchdowns. He threw only five interceptions and hit 65.6 percent of his throws.

2. TOM BRADY, NEW ENGLAND
Joined Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw as the only QBs in NFL history to win four Super Bowls. Brady may now have passed Montana, his boyhood idol, as the greatest QB to play the game.

3. DREW BREES, NEW ORLEANS
There was no drop-off in Brees' performance in 2014 — in fact, he delivered one of the best statistical seasons of his career. He continues to be an outstanding ball handler in play action and is one of the most accurate passers in NFL history.

4. BEN ROETHLISBERGER, PITTSBURGH
Signed a new contract in 2015, confirming the Steelers' faith that he is playing at an elite level. His career 7.9 yards-per-attempt average is tied for sixth in NFL history.

5. ANDREW LUCK, INDIANAPOLIS
In his third season, the former Stanford Cardinal threw for 4,761 yards and 40 TDs. The big righthander processes information quickly and is a respected team leader.

6. TONY ROMO, DALLAS
Heading into his 13th year as a pro, Romo time and again has demonstrated the athletic ability to elude the rush, see the open receiver and hit him for a big play.

7. PHILIP RIVERS, SAN DIEGO
The five-time Pro Bowler is back in San Diego after some speculated he would be traded to the Titans. Few field generals sense the rush and step up and away from pressure as effectively as Rivers.

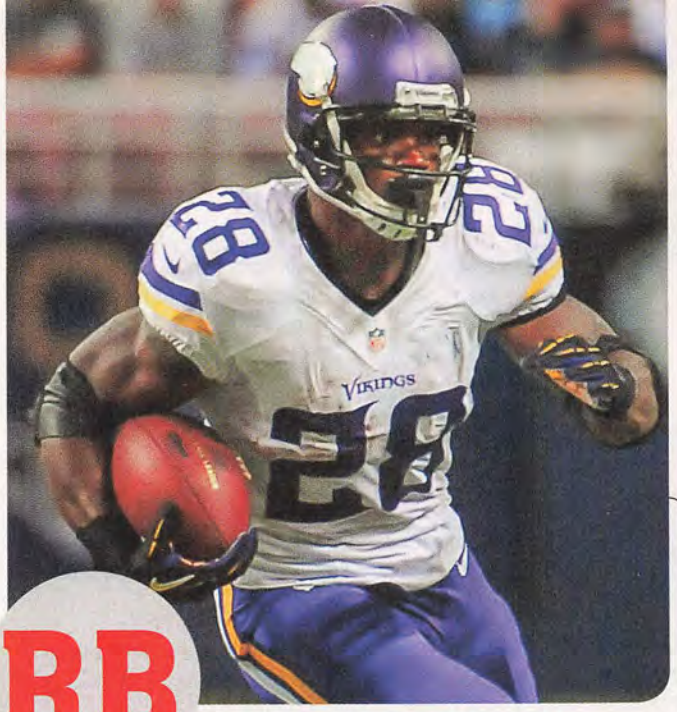
8. PEYTON MANNING, DENVER
Age and time may well be the only opponents that the five-time MVP will not be able to defeat in his quest for another Super Bowl win. The 17-year veteran has 14 Pro Bowl appearances and is still one of the league's undisputed superstars.

9. RUSSELL WILSON, SEATTLE
The youngest QB to win a Super Bowl, Wilson had a banner 2014 season, throwing for 3,475 yards, rushing for 849 and accounting for 26 touchdowns.

10. ELI MANNING, N.Y. GIANTS
The 34-year-old concluded last season with a career-best 63.1 completion percentage and threw for 30 touchdowns and 14 interceptions in the Giants' version of the West Coast offense.

11. Matt Ryan, Atlanta
12. Joe Flacco, Baltimore
13. Cam Newton, Carolina
14. Matthew Stafford, Detroit
15. Andy Dalton, Cincinnati
16. Colin Kaepernick, San Francisco
17. Ryan Tannehill, Miami
18. Alex Smith, Kansas City
19. Carson Palmer, Arizona
20. Jay Cutler, Chicago
21. Geno Smith, N.Y. Jets
22. Blake Bortles, Jacksonville
23. Teddy Bridgewater, Minnesota
24. Ryan Fitzpatrick, N.Y. Jets
25. Mark Sanchez, Philadelphia
26. Nick Foles, St. Louis
27. Mike Glennon, Tampa Bay
28. Zach Mettenberger, Tennessee
29. Matt Cassel, Buffalo
30. Derek Carr, Oakland

Rodgers: Tom DiPace; Peterson: AP



RB

1. ADRIAN PETERSON, MINNESOTA

Peterson was placed on the commissioner's exempt list and then suspended indefinitely last November after his much publicized off-the-field issues. He's back now and is still under contract with the Vikings. Peterson is poised for a big 2015 season.

2. MARSHAWN LYNCH, SEATTLE

Banged out 1,306 yards, fifth best in the league, and earned a new contract after leading the Seahawks to their second consecutive Super Bowl. The extra-effort runner cuts without the loss of speed.

3. LE'VEON BELL, PITTSBURGH

The second-year pro slashed his way to 1,361 yards and eight TDs on the ground in 2014. In addition, he had no fumbles in 373 total touches. Bell likely will sit out the first three games this fall due to a marijuana arrest.

4. DEMARCO MURRAY, PHILADELPHIA

Led the NFL in rushing with 1,845 yards, averaging 115.3 yards per game and 4.7 yards per carry for Dallas. A good fit for the Eagles' offense with his quick reactions, vision and the ability to split a crease with good body lean.

5. LESEAN MCCOY, BUFFALO

Was traded to Buffalo after jitterbugging his way to 1,319 yards for the Eagles in 2014. The Bills are gambling that McCoy will return to his days of being a north/south runner.

6. JAMAAL CHARLES, KANSAS CITY

Passed former Chiefs great Priest Holmes as the all-time leading rusher in team history despite battling injuries in 2014. He rushed for 1,033 yards, the fifth time he collected more than a 1,000 yards in a season.

7. ARIAN FOSTER, HOUSTON

Since 2010, he has rushed for 6,052 yards and 50 touchdowns. In the same time frame, he has caught 219 passes for 1,948 yards and 12 TDs. Foster is a downhill power runner with good vision and cutback ability.

8. EDDIE LACY, GREEN BAY

He followed his successful rookie season with a 1,139-yard rushing effort in 2014. The former Alabama star improved his route running and snatched 42 passes for 427 yards, averaging 10.2 yards per reception.

9. MATT FORTE, CHICAGO

Forte broke Larry Centers' record for receptions by a running back by catching 102 passes in 2014. He also rushed for 1,038 yards, the fifth time in seven years he joined the 1,000-yard club.

10. FRANK GORE, INDIANAPOLIS

Signed as an unrestricted free agent by Indianapolis, leaving the 49ers as their all-time leading rusher with 11,073 yards. The ageless warrior brings a dedication and work ethic to a team seeking to upgrade its running attack.

11. Jeremy Hill, Cincinnati
12. Justin Forsett, Baltimore
13. Mark Ingram, New Orleans
14. Lamar Miller, Miami
15. Joique Bell, Detroit
16. Alfred Morris, Washington
17. Chris Ivory, N.Y. Jets
18. Tre Mason, St. Louis
19. Fred Jackson, Buffalo
20. Darren Sproles, Philadelphia
21. C.J. Anderson, Denver
22. Jacquizz Rodgers, Chicago
23. Giovani Bernard, Cincinnati
24. Rashad Jennings, N.Y. Giants
25. Andre Williams, N.Y. Giants
26. Jonathan Stewart, Carolina
27. Steven Jackson, Free Agent
28. Pierre Thomas, Free Agent
29. Branden Oliver, San Diego
30. Ahmad Bradshaw, Free Agent

FB

1. JOHN KUHN, GREEN BAY

The pride of Shippensburg University was an All-Pro selection in 2014. The old-school battering ram relishes contact and special teams play.

2. MARCEL REECE, OAKLAND

Brings a complete tool box of block, run and catch to the table. As a pass receiver with rare speed to run away from defenders, he is an explosive check-down option for Derek Carr.

3. ANTHONY SHERMAN, KANSAS CITY

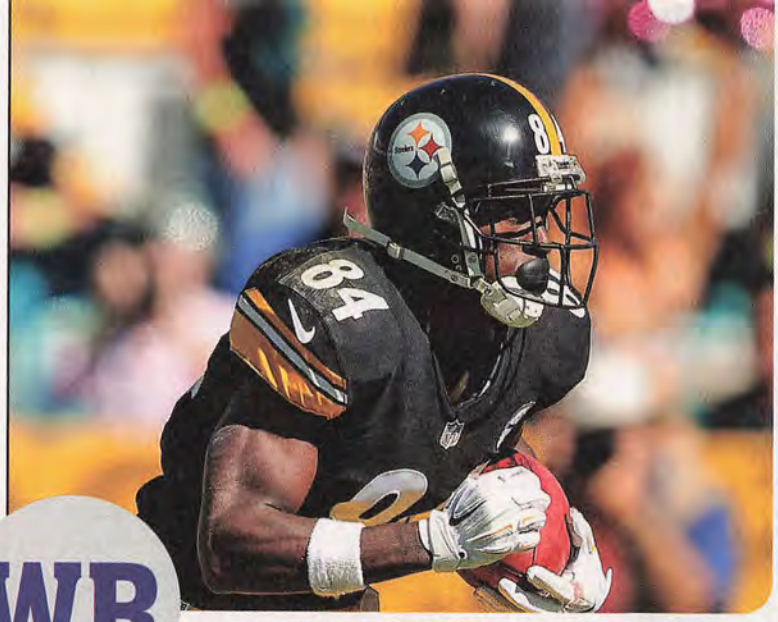
A productive role player in the Chiefs' West Coast offense as a blocker first and occasional receiver. In addition, he is one of the league's top special teams players.

4. BRUCE MILLER, SAN FRANCISCO

Is the most versatile member of the 49ers as a lead blocker, sometime receiver and whirling dervish special teams player. He makes an impact drawing blocks when he doesn't make the tackle himself.

5. HENRY HYNOSKI, N.Y. GIANTS

An H-back-type who blocks well on the run. Good size to run over inside linebackers or kick out penetration. Contributes on all special teams.



WR

1. ANTONIO BROWN, PITTSBURGH
Was voted All-Pro after setting a Steelers single-season record with 1,698 yards and 129 receptions. Brown is dangerous in space with his vision, quickness, and elusiveness.

2. DEMARYIUS THOMAS, DENVER
The big, explosive receiver has the strength to beat bump coverage and the burst to get up the field and separate. Also has the size to run all the inside routes.

3. DEZ BRYANT, DALLAS
Was voted first-team All-Pro and is a big play waiting to happen. The mercurial receiver averaged 15.0 yards per catch and 82.5 yards per game. Productive with 88 catches, 1,320 yards and a league-high 16 TD receptions.

4. CALVIN JOHNSON, DETROIT
For the sixth time in the last seven seasons, Megatron caught at least 70 passes and had at least 1,000 yards receiving.

5. JORDY NELSON, GREEN BAY
Nelson has soft, suction-cup-type hands. The competitive receiver is particularly productive between the hash marks. Has topped 1,000 yards in three of the last four seasons.

6. JULIO JONES, ATLANTA
After missing 11 games in 2013 with injuries, the ex-Alabama receiver reminded opponents they must account for him.

7. ODELL BECKHAM JR., N.Y. GIANTS
The reigning AP Offensive Rookie of the Year started out slowly due to injuries, but more than got up to speed from Weeks 5 through 16, catching 91 balls for 1,305 yards and 12 touchdowns.

8. EMMANUEL SANDERS, DENVER
Highly productive in the Broncos' time-share offense. The hand catcher runs crisp and sharp routes. Excels tracking and adjusting to Peyton Manning's deep passes.

9. RANDALL COBB, GREEN BAY
Re-signed in the offseason with the Packers after catching 91 passes for 1,287 yards and 12 TDs in 2014. He played in only six games the previous year but made his contract year count.

10. T.Y. HILTON, INDIANAPOLIS
Became the sixth player in NFL history to record 10 100-yard receiving games in the first two seasons of a career. Hilton's 2014 numbers: 82 receptions, 1,345 yards, 16.4 yards per catch and seven TDs.

11. A.J. Green, Cincinnati
12. Alshon Jeffery, Chicago
13. DeAndre Hopkins, Houston
14. Mike Evans, Tampa Bay
15. Jeremy Maclin, Kansas City
16. Kelvin Benjamin, Carolina
17. Julian Edelman, New England
18. Golden Tate, Detroit
19. Andre Johnson, Indianapolis
20. Rueben Randle, N.Y. Giants
21. Jarvis Landry, Miami
22. Anquan Boldin, San Francisco
23. Doug Baldwin, Seattle
24. Keenan Allen, San Diego
25. Eric Decker, N.Y. Jets
26. Vincent Jackson, Tampa Bay
27. Sammy Watkins, Buffalo
28. Brandon Marshall, N.Y. Jets
29. Larry Fitzgerald, Arizona
30. Steve Smith, Baltimore

TE

1. ROB GRONKOWSKI, NEW ENGLAND
The huge red-zone target with long arms made it through the 2014 season injury-free. He corralled 82 passes for 1,124 yards, averaging 13.7 yards per catch, and scored 12 times.

2. JIMMY GRAHAM, SEATTLE
Fought through a shoulder injury in 2014 but still came up with 85 catches good for 889 yards and 10 touchdowns. He will have a new role in Seattle as a blocker, as well as a featured receiver.

3. JASON WITTEN, DALLAS
Has caught 943 passes in his 12-year career, good for 10,502 yards and 57 touchdowns. He also has played in 187 straight games.

4. GREG OLSEN, CAROLINA
Was second only to Gronkowski in tight end receiving yards with 1,008. Has played in 126 consecutive games, the second-longest streak in the NFL among active tight ends.

5. MARTELLUS BENNETT, CHICAGO
Led all tight ends with 90 catches, averaging just over a first down per reception at 10.2 yards. He broke Hall of Famer Mike Ditka's single-season record for most catches by a Bears tight end.

6. TRAVIS KELCE, KANSAS CITY
Showed good run-after-catch ability, gaining 20 yards or more on 15 of his 67 catches. For a big man, he has the speed to get vertical down the field.

7. DWAYNE ALLEN, INDIANAPOLIS
Allen and teammate Coby Fleener became the first tight end duo on the same team to each record eight touchdowns in a season. He's a versatile athlete who can play fullback, wide receiver and in the slot.

8. ZACH ERTZ, PHILADELPHIA
A dependable pass catcher who is smart and athletic. Effective blocker when on the move. Productive with 58 catches for 702 yards.

9. VIRGIL GREEN, DENVER
A natural hand catcher with speed. Demonstrated good-enough ball skills and athletic ability that the Broncos decided to let Julius Thomas go in free agency.

10. JULIUS THOMAS, JACKSONVILLE
Signed with Jacksonville as an unrestricted free agent. Became the first tight end in NFL history to catch at least 12 touchdown passes in consecutive seasons.

11. Antonio Gates, San Diego
12. Delanie Walker, Tennessee
13. Heath Miller, Pittsburgh
14. Charles Clay, Buffalo
15. Jared Cook, St. Louis
16. Owen Daniels, Denver
17. Coby Fleener, Indianapolis
18. Jermaine Gresham, Free Agent
19. Vernon Davis, San Francisco
20. Larry Donnell, N.Y. Giants

Tom DiPace

G

1. MARSHAL YANDA, BALTIMORE
Uses his hands well to control the defender. He is the total package of run blocker, pass protector, football instincts, functional strength and hell-bent-for-leather finisher.

2. ZACK MARTIN, DALLAS
Made the transition from college tackle to pro guard. Under the tutelage of line coach Bill Callahan (now with the Redskins), Martin took his blue-collar work ethic and talent to another level.

3. T.J. LANG, GREEN BAY
An intense and competitive blocker who plays square with balance and leverage. Aggressive off the snap and finishes his target with good head position and leg drive.

4. EVAN MATHIS, PHILADELPHIA
Has a reputation as a consistent competitor who battles hard every play. He is an efficient position blocker with good first-step quickness.

5. KELECHI OSEMELE, BALTIMORE
He has elevated his game under line coach Juan Castillo. The wide-bodied road grader has the physical tools to lock up a defensive tackle.

6. MIKE IUPATI, ARIZONA
A powerful man with a wide, athletic body, he plays with a good base and competitive streak. Controls the defender with strong hands and an explosive punch.

7. JOEL BITONIO, CLEVELAND
Uses his hands to seal the inside gap from a defender's penetration. Physical and strong on down blocks.

8. BRANDON BROOKS, HOUSTON
Has a thick and powerful body and can manhandle a pass rusher if he maintains his knee bend and leverage.

9. RONALD LEARY, DALLAS
The former undrafted free agent plays with a good power base to position and wall off a defender in the run game.

10. JOHN GRECO, CLEVELAND
A smart and instinctive player who is very technique-conscious. Keeps his hands inside the frame and controls his target.

11. Josh Sitton, Green Bay
12. Kevin Zeitler, Cincinnati
13. Brandon Linder, Jacksonville
14. Kyle Long, Chicago
15. Orlando Franklin, San Diego
16. Andrew Norwell, Carolina
17. Clint Boling, Cincinnati
18. Chance Warmack, Tennessee
19. Larry Warford, Detroit
20. David DeCastro, Pittsburgh

C

1. NICK MANGOLD, N.Y. JETS
The durable and dependable pivot has an explosive punch that stuns a defender. Plays with good technique and strong hands.

2. TRAVIS FREDERICK, DALLAS
A power player who gets push in the run game. Has demonstrated the size and strength to neutralize a nose tackle or drive down a gap defender.

3. ALEX MACK, CLEVELAND
The leader of the Browns' offensive line was well on his way to an All-Pro selection when he went down with a broken fibula in October.

4. RODNEY HUDSON, OAKLAND
He is undersized by NFL standards but plays with quickness and agility. Especially effective as a zone blocker, getting to the second level where he seals off linebackers and cuts off pursuit.

5. JOHN SULLIVAN, MINNESOTA
Plays with light feet in pass protection yet can anchor versus a power rusher. He has the size, strength, balance and base to control a defensive lineman.

6. JASON KELCE, PHILADELPHIA
A classic zone-blocking center who is athletic with good technique and footwork. Quick to redirect and change direction.

7. MAX UNGER, NEW ORLEANS
A strong drive blocker with nifty feet in the run game. Plays with a solid punch, lockout and foot quickness in pass protection.

8. RYAN KALIL, CAROLINA
He is an intense and sound technician who is physical and aggressive in his play.

9. KORY LICHTENSTEIGER, WASHINGTON
A tough and physical throwback blocker who works to finish his blocks. Plays with quick hands and good technique.

10. MAURKICE POUNCEY, PITTSBURGH
Earned an All-Pro selection in 2014 and is recognized in league circles as an athletic center who plays with attitude and aggression.

11. Chris Myers, Free Agent
12. Jeremy Zuttah, Baltimore
13. Corey Linsley, Green Bay
14. Evan Dietrich-Smith, Tampa Bay
15. Stefen Wisniewski, Jacksonville
16. Bryan Stork, New England
17. Eric Wood, Buffalo
18. Luke Bowanko, Jacksonville
19. Samson Satele, Free Agent
20. Russell Bodine, Cincinnati

T

1. TYRON SMITH, DALLAS
Physically, he has it all with his extra-long arms, huge hands, strength and athletic ability. He seals the play side with good technique and rare lateral quickness. He is equally skilled as a run blocker or pass protector.

2. JOE THOMAS, CLEVELAND
He has an outstanding combination of size, athletic ability and a gritty style of play. Demonstrates explosiveness and power in the run game.

3. JOE STALEY, SAN FRANCISCO
A Pro Bowl talent who is highly competitive and works to finish his blocks with a nasty streak.

4. JASON PETERS, PHILADELPHIA
He has anchored the Eagles' offensive line since being acquired in a trade from Buffalo in 2009.

5. ANDREW WHITWORTH, CINCINNATI
He is heading into his 10th year in the league as a physical tackle who can manhandle defensive ends and tackles with his hand strength.

6. LANE JOHNSON, PHILADELPHIA
An ascending tackle who has started 28 straight games for the Eagles after being drafted in the first round in 2013. A physical and aggressive right tackle.

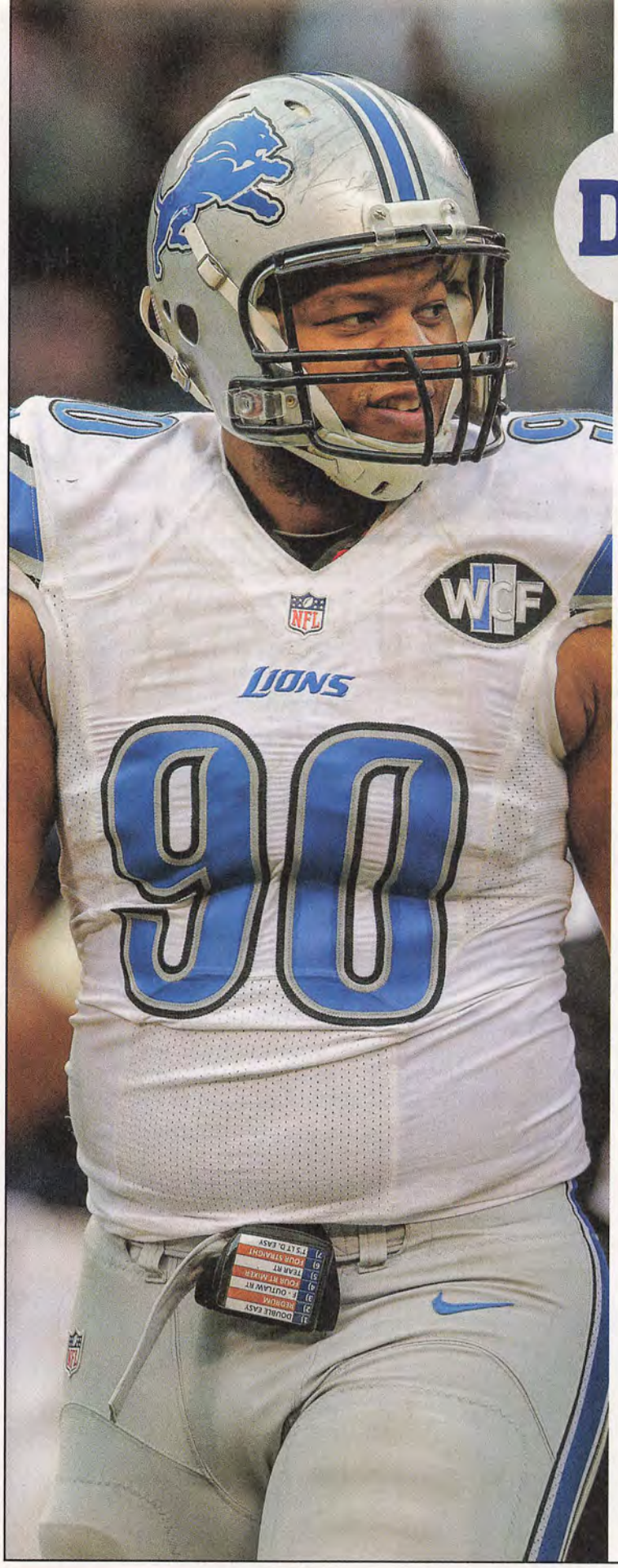
7. SEBASTIAN VOLLMER, NEW ENGLAND
A native of Germany, Vollmer has become more of a technique player rather than a mauler in the run game.

8. JARED VELDHEER, ARIZONA
Signed as an unrestricted free agent a year ago from Oakland and has been a huge upgrade on the left side of the Cardinals' line.

9. DUANE BROWN, HOUSTON
A natural athlete with long arms and big hands for the left tackle position. Good body control and balance.

10. KELVIN BEACHUM, PITTSBURGH
A good athlete who plays square and has an explosive punch. A top-level technique player who plays with confidence.

11. Donald Penn, Oakland
12. Branden Albert, Miami
13. Anthony Castonzo, Indianapolis
14. Ricky Wagner, Baltimore
15. Will Beatty, N.Y. Giants
16. Bryan Bulaga, Green Bay
17. Zach Strief, New Orleans
18. Trent Williams, Washington
19. Derek Newton, Houston
20. Doug Free, Dallas



DT

1. NDAMUKONG SUH, MIAMI

A new arrival with the Dolphins, Suh has recorded 239 tackles including 36 sacks from the inside at defensive tackle.

2. MARCELL DAREUS, BUFFALO

A Pro Bowl selection after a 10-sack season, Dareus is a long-armed power player who doesn't stay blocked.

3. GERALD McCOY, TAMPA BAY

The five-year veteran has catlike quickness, good agility and body control to work his way through traffic. He excels as a one-gap penetrator.

4. AARON DONALD, ST. LOUIS

The relentless, slippery leverage player has good flexibility to dip and bend. The 2014 AP Defensive Rookie of the Year had nine sacks and 48 total tackles.

5. KYLE WILLIAMS, BUFFALO

He missed 11 games due to injury in 2011, but other than that, he has been a tireless blue-collar worker Bills fans appreciate.

6. JOHNATHAN HANKINS, N.Y. GIANTS

Hankins plays hard inside out to the perimeter and has good lateral quickness and change of direction.

7. KAWANN SHORT, CAROLINA

Playing in front of NFL tackling leader Luke Kuechly, Short absorbs blocks and gets upfield push in the pass game.

8. STEPHEN PAEA, WASHINGTON

With his strength and leverage, Paea is tough to block one-on-one. He gains an advantage with his first-step quickness.

9. TERRANCE KNIGHTON, WASHINGTON

This wide-bodied pocket presser was just what the doctor ordered for Washington to stop the inside running game.

10. JARED ODRICK, JACKSONVILLE

A free-agent signee, Odrick is projected to play inside in a four-man front. He's a disruptive player who gets upfield pressure.

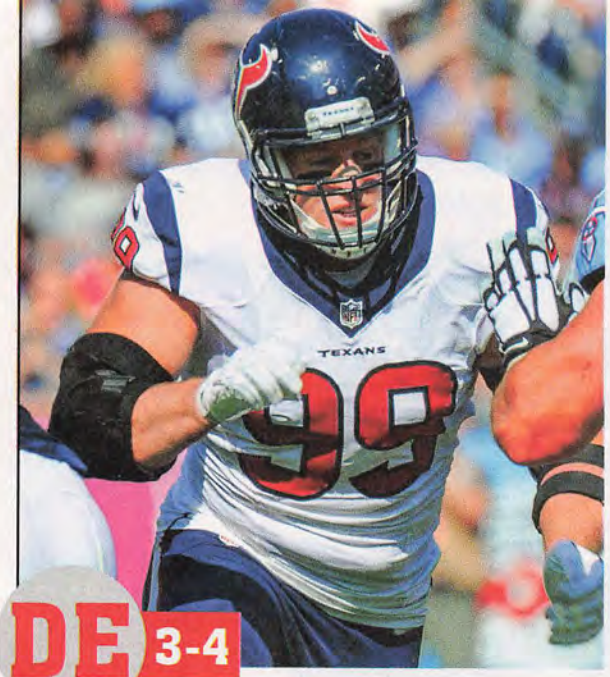
11. Vince Wilfork, Houston
12. Sharrif Floyd, Minnesota
13. Brandon Williams, Baltimore
14. Jay Ratliff, Chicago
15. Tyrone Crawford, Dallas
16. Sen'Derrick Marks, Jacksonville
17. Geno Atkins, Cincinnati
18. Star Lotulelei, Carolina
19. Damon Harrison, N.Y. Jets
20. Henry Melton, Tampa Bay
21. Dan Williams, Oakland
22. Nick Fairley, St. Louis
23. Tyrunn Walker, Detroit
24. Jonathan Babineaux, Atlanta
25. Linval Joseph, Minnesota
26. Clinton McDonald, Tampa Bay
27. Michael Brockers, St. Louis
28. Kevin Williams, Free Agent
29. Bennie Logan, Philadelphia
30. Tom Johnson, Minnesota

Tom Lynn

WHERE FANS GO FOR TICKETS

TICKETCITY

800.SOLD.OUT



DE 3-4

1. J.J. WATT, HOUSTON
A unanimous All-Pro, Watt has never missed a game in his four-year career, recording 51.5 sacks in the past three years.

2. SHELDON RICHARDSON, N.Y. JETS
The 2013 AP NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year built on his first season by registering 67 tackles and eight sacks.

3. MUHAMMAD WILKERSON, N.Y. JETS
Wilkerson has played in 61 games since he was drafted four years ago and has collected 237 career tackles and 24.5 sacks.

4. CALAIS CAMPBELL, ARIZONA
Campbell is a wiry and strong player at the point of attack and has the speed to run a play down from behind.

5. FLETCHER COX, PHILADELPHIA
A battler from snap to whistle, Cox takes good angles in both long and short pursuit and has good use of hands at the point of attack.

6. JUSTIN SMITH, SAN FRANCISCO
It's possible this relentless and tenacious warrior will announce his retirement at some point before the 2015 season begins.

7. CAMERON HEYWARD, PITTSBURGH
An explosive player with innate strength, the fifth-year pro has put together back-to-back solid seasons.

8. HALOTI NGATA, DETROIT
Detroit acquired Ngata, a nine-year veteran and five-time Pro Bowler, this offseason to offset the loss of Ndamukong Suh.

9. MIKE DANIELS, GREEN BAY
One of the top disruptors in the league, Daniels is undersized for a 3-4 defensive end, but he's quick and resourceful in his play.

10. JURRELL CASEY, TENNESSEE
The four-year veteran is a productive, quick and high-effort competitor. Casey refuses to stay blocked and has the burst to close and finish a play.

11. Jason Hatcher, Washington
12. Ray McDonald, Chicago
13. Timmy Jernigan, Baltimore
14. Corey Liuget, San Diego
15. Tommy Kelly, Free Agent
16. Cory Redding, Arizona
17. Cedric Thornton, Philadelphia
18. Jared Crick, Houston
19. Vinny Curry, Philadelphia
20. Desmond Bryant, Cleveland

DE 4-3

1. CAMERON WAKE, MIAMI
The 2014 Pro Bowl selection has the hand strength and leverage to control the blocker and stack the run. Wake finished 2014 with 11.5 sacks and three forced fumbles.

2. MICHAEL BENNETT, SEATTLE
Bennett plays with strength and leverage and sets the edge of the defense with good lateral quickness. He has elevated his total game over the past five years.

3. JUNIOR GALETTE, NEW ORLEANS
The long-armed edge pass rusher has an explosive first step. A good athlete with exceptional change-of-direction ability, Galette has 22 sacks the past two years.

4. EZEKIEL ANSAH, DETROIT
A talented and disruptive high-effort athlete, Ansah controls the blocker with his long arms and big hands. He elevated his overall game his second season.

5. JASON PIERRE-PAUL, N.Y. GIANTS
The speed rusher takes advantage of his long arms and huge hands. He finished the season with 77 tackles and 12.5 sacks.

6. EVERSON GRIFFEN, MINNESOTA
Griffen has outstanding lateral quickness with a relentless burst to the quarterback. An explosive leverage player, Griffen had 12 sacks last season.

7. CHARLES JOHNSON, CAROLINA
A productive pass rusher with the ability to stop the run, Johnson has quick feet with his outside rush or inside charge. Has 52.5 sacks in the last five years.

8. CLIFF AVRIL, SEATTLE
Avril has explosive first-step quickness and uses his long arms to set the edge in the run game. Avril has recorded 13 sacks the past two years.

9. MARIO WILLIAMS, BUFFALO
A Pro Bowl pass rusher who can turn speed to power on a rush. He has sudden first-step quickness and covers a lot of ground quickly.

10. ROBERT QUINN, ST. LOUIS
The 2014 Pro Bowler possesses natural hand, foot and lateral quickness. He refuses to stay blocked and can slip and accelerate off a block.

11. Chris Long, St. Louis
12. Robert Ayers, N.Y. Giants
13. William Hayes, St. Louis
14. Jerry Hughes, Buffalo
15. Carlos Dunlap, Cincinnati
16. Jeremy Mincey, Dallas
17. Justin Tuck, Oakland
18. Olivier Vernon, Miami
19. Jared Allen, Chicago
20. DeMarcus Ware, Denver
21. Cameron Jordan, New Orleans
22. Anthony Spencer, New Orleans
23. George Johnson, Tampa Bay
24. Jonathan Massaquoi, Tennessee
25. Lamarr Houston, Chicago
26. O'Brien Schofield, Atlanta
27. Derek Wolfe, Denver
28. C.J. Wilson, Oakland
29. Jarius Wynn, Buffalo
30. Greg Hardy, Dallas

Watt: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports; Wake: Tom DiPace; Kuechly: Sportfolio

ILB

1. LUKE KUECHLY, CAROLINA

Kuechly is the poster guy for competitive, instinctive and intense linebacker play. Last season, he was selected to his second career Pro Bowl and led the NFL in tackles. He's started all 48 games in his career.

2. DONT'A HIGHTOWER, NEW ENGLAND

Hightower is a physical run stuffer with the strength and ability to shed quickly at the point of attack. Most important, he made the key tackle on Marshawn Lynch at the 1-yard line in the Super Bowl.

3. JAMIE COLLINS, NEW ENGLAND

An ascending player who is getting more efficient every year, Collins has long arms and big hands, which help him shed blocks with his combination of power and speed.

4. BOBBY WAGNER, SEATTLE

A Pro Bowl performer, Wagner has top-level instincts and good overall technique. He is quick to read and react, has good range and takes productive angles in pursuit.

5. SEAN LEE, DALLAS

Lee is a competitor who doesn't get fooled. He's versatile enough to play inside or outside in the 4-3, but the Cowboys will start him on the outside in hopes of keeping him healthy and on the field.

6. KIKO ALONSO, PHILADELPHIA

Like Lee, Alonso missed last season due to a torn ACL. That didn't stop Philadelphia from acquiring the former Oregon Duck for LeSean McCoy. In 2013, Alonso was second in the AP NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year voting.

7. BRIAN CUSHING, HOUSTON

When healthy, Cushing is an All-Pro-caliber player, gaining such honors in 2009 and 2011. In 2014 — his first season in the last three in which he played more than seven games — Cushing started 14 games and totaled 72 tackles.

8. MYCHAL KENDRICKS, PHILADELPHIA

Despite missing four games with a calf injury last season, Kendricks is averaging 88 tackles per season. The instinctive playmaker was in on 75 tackles, one sack and three forced fumbles last season.

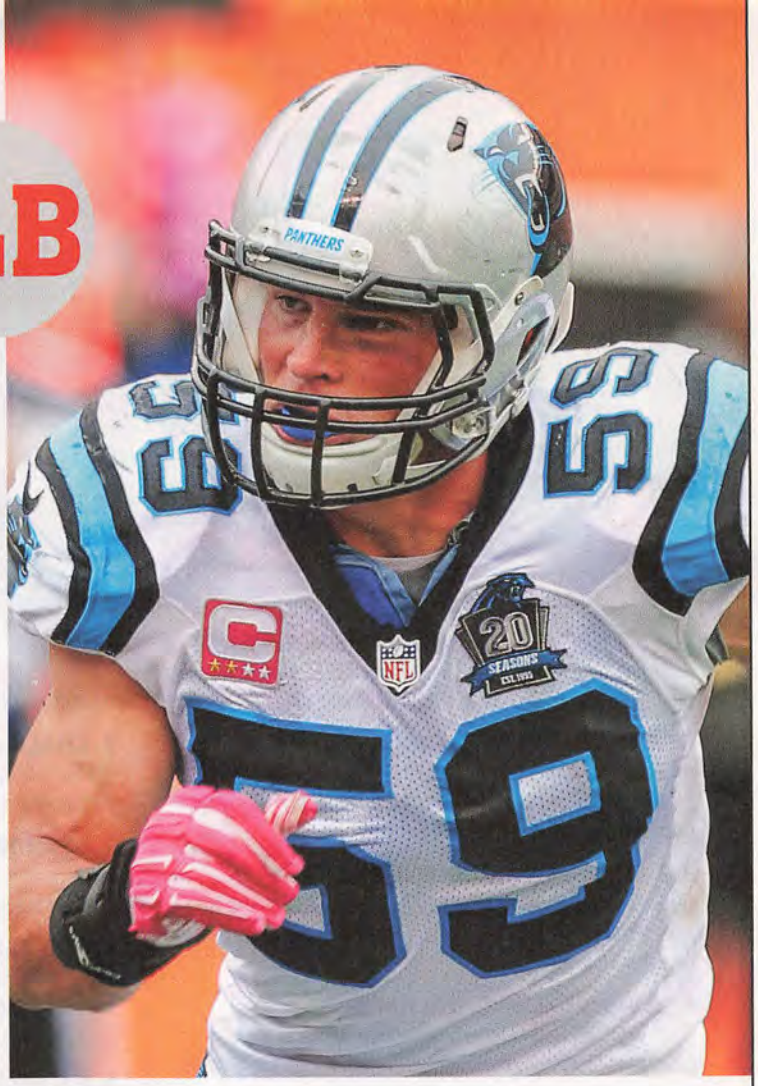
9. DARYL SMITH, BALTIMORE

A free-agent steal for the Ravens in 2013, Smith is known for consistent, instinctive and intense play. For the past two years the sideline-to-sideline performer has averaged more than 125 tackles per season.

10. KARLOS DANSBY, CLEVELAND

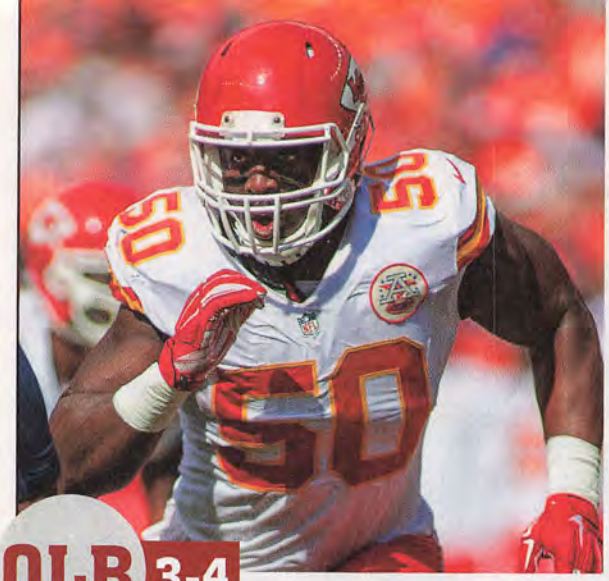
The 11-year veteran is recognized league-wide as an instinctive and productive defensive leader. He is one of only two players heading into the 2015 season with at least 30 career sacks and 10 career interceptions.

11. Brandon Marshall, Denver
12. Preston Brown, Buffalo
13. Lawrence Timmons, Pittsburgh
14. Demario Davis, N.Y. Jets
15. C.J. Mosley, Baltimore
16. Koa Misi, Miami
17. Avery Williamson, Tennessee
18. Craig Robertson, Cleveland
19. DeMeco Ryans, Philadelphia
20. David Harris, N.Y. Jets



THE NFL'S TOP 50 PLAYERS

1. Aaron Rodgers, QB, Green Bay
2. J.J. Watt, DE, Houston
3. Tom Brady, QB, New England
4. Drew Brees, QB New Orleans
5. Ndamukong Suh, DT, Miami
6. Rob Gronkowski, TE, New England
7. Darrelle Revis, CB, N.Y. Jets
8. Earl Thomas, FS, Seattle
9. Ben Roethlisberger, QB, Pittsburgh
10. Richard Sherman, CB, Seattle
11. Tyron Smith, OT, Dallas
12. Adrian Peterson, RB, Minnesota
13. Andrew Luck, QB, Indianapolis
14. Antonio Brown, WR, Pittsburgh
15. Tony Romo, QB, Dallas
16. Marshawn Lynch, RB, Seattle
17. Luke Kuechly, LB, Carolina
18. Demaryius Thomas, WR, Denver
19. Jimmy Graham, TE, Seattle
20. Philip Rivers, QB, San Diego
21. Dez Bryant, WR, Dallas
22. Justin Houston, LB, Kansas City
23. Sheldon Richardson, DE, N.Y. Jets
24. Von Miller, OLB, Denver
25. Le'Veon Bell, RB, Pittsburgh
26. Peyton Manning, QB, Denver
27. Calvin Johnson, WR, Detroit
28. Russell Wilson, QB, Seattle
29. Marcell Dareus, DT, Buffalo
30. DeMarco Murray, RB, Philadelphia
31. Muhammad Wilkerson, DE, N.Y. Jets
32. Cameron Wake, DE, Miami
33. Lavonte David, LB, Tampa Bay
34. Gerald McCoy, DT, Tampa Bay
35. Terrell Suggs, LB, Baltimore
36. Joe Thomas, OT, Cleveland
37. LeSean McCoy, RB, Buffalo
38. Jordy Nelson, WR, Green Bay
39. Jamaal Charles, RB, Kansas City
40. Julio Jones, WR, Atlanta
41. Joe Staley, OT, San Francisco
42. Jason Peters, OT, Philadelphia
43. Odell Beckham Jr., WR, N.Y. Giants
44. Marshal Yanda, OG, Baltimore
45. Khalil Mack, LB, Oakland
46. Chris Harris, CB, Denver
47. Eric Weddle, FS, San Diego
48. Vontae Davis, CB, Indianapolis
49. Patrick Peterson, CB, Arizona
50. Zack Martin, OG, Dallas



OLB 3-4

1. JUSTIN HOUSTON, KANSAS CITY
A first-team All-Pro in 2014, Houston has 48.5 sacks in his four-year career. Only J.J. Watt has disrupted more dropbacks since 2011.

2. VON MILLER, DENVER
A nightmare for edge-blocking tackles, tight ends and backs, Miller has a knack and desire to excel working to the quarterback. In his four-year career he has 49 sacks, including 14 last season.

3. TERRELL SUGGS, BALTIMORE
The Ravens' all-time leader in sacks added 12 more in 2014. He's an explosive athlete who has had a pattern of yearly production from college through pro football.

4. ELVIS DUMERVIL, BALTIMORE
A fast-twitch athlete who works through blocks, Dumervil had 17 sacks in his 2014 All-Pro season. The prolific edge rusher has 90 sacks between his Denver stint and two years with the Ravens.

5. CLAY MATTHEWS, GREEN BAY
After a temporary move to inside linebacker, Matthews arguably had his best season with the variety of assignments. A five-time Pro Bowl selection.

6. PAUL KRUGER, CLEVELAND
A relentless high-motor defender who recorded 11 sacks in 2014, Kruger has been a productive asset since signing as an unrestricted free agent in 2013. He displays a sudden punch and spin move with an upfield burst.

7. CONNOR BARWIN, PHILADELPHIA
The versatile and athletic edge rusher was in on 64 tackles including 14.5 sacks, tied with Buffalo's Mario Williams for fourth in the league.

8. PERNELL McPHEE, CHICAGO
McPhee had a combined 38 quarterback knockdowns and hurries in 2014.

9. BRANDON GRAHAM, PHILADELPHIA
Last season, Graham recorded 13.5 tackles for a loss, four forced fumbles and 18 QB hurries.

10. RYAN KERRIGAN, WASHINGTON
Kerrigan racked up 13.5 sacks in 2014 and has never missed a start in his four-year pro career. He is consistent and nonstop in his play.

11. Julius Peppers, Green Bay
12. Derrick Morgan, Tennessee
13. Jason Babin, N.Y. Jets
14. James Harrison, Pittsburgh
15. Chandler Jones, New England
16. Tamba Hali, Kansas City
17. Trent Cole, Indianapolis
18. Rob Ninkovich, New England
19. Brooks Reed, Atlanta
20. Whitney Mercilus, Houston

OLB 4-3

1. LAVONTE DAVID, TAMPA BAY
A tackling machine with natural and instinctive ability to recognize and react to run or pass, David was third in the league with 146 tackles.

2. KHALIL MACK, OAKLAND
An athletic linebacker who can dip his shoulder, penetrate into the backfield and pressure the quarterback, Mack started all 16 games as a rookie and had 76 total tackles.

3. DEANDRE LEVY, DETROIT
Levy is an athletic linebacker who can play square, work through traffic and run in space. Only Luke Kuechly had more tackles than Levy's 151 last season.

4. THOMAS DAVIS, CAROLINA
An aggressive and explosive hitter, Davis has worked through three ACL surgeries during his career to become one of the league's best linebackers. He's totaled over 100 tackles for the third year in a row.

5. K.J. WRIGHT, SEATTLE
A productive tackler who is instinctive and physical, Wright is better in a confined area. He's a multi-scheme athlete who totaled 107 tackles in 2014.

6. ANTHONY BARR, MINNESOTA
Barr has a good combination of length and take-off edge speed. He can beat an offensive tackle with athletic ability and double moves. In 12 games as a rookie, Barr registered 70 tackles, four sacks, two forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries.

7. JELANI JENKINS, MIAMI
Jenkins is instinctive with a nose for the ball and has all the tools for a coverage linebacker. He made 110 tackles and forced two fumbles in 14 starts last fall.

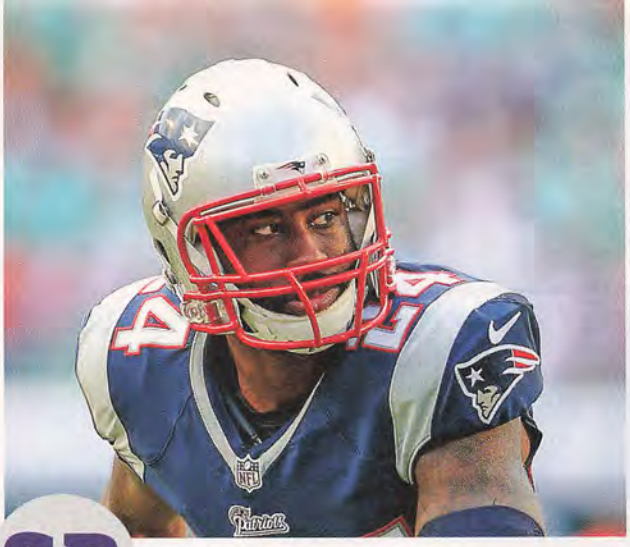
8. BRUCE CARTER, TAMPA BAY
Carter is a fluid athlete who can cover a lot of ground. Agile through traffic and with no hold up in pursuit, Carter has the speed to run with backs and tight ends in coverage.

9. NIGEL BRADHAM, BUFFALO
Versatile enough to play any of the positions in any scheme, Bradham is an athletic linebacker who can cover a tight end. He has good closing speed in pursuit. He was in on 104 tackles and defended six passes.

10. DANNY LANSANAH, TAMPA BAY
An overnight success after being in the league off and on since 2008, Lansanah started 11 games in 2014 and recorded 82 tackles and three interceptions, two returned for TDs.

11. Justin Durant, Atlanta
12. Philip Wheeler, San Francisco
13. Vincent Rey, Cincinnati
14. Alec Ogletree, St. Louis
15. Sio Moore, Oakland
16. Anthony Hitchens, Dallas
17. Chad Greenway, Minnesota
18. Emmanuel Lamur, Cincinnati
19. Bruce Irvin, Seattle
20. Telvin Smith, Jacksonville

Houston: Peter Brouillet; David, Revis, Thomas: Tom DiPace



CB

1. DARRELLE REVIS, N.Y. JETS
The All-Pro shutdown corner is back with the Jets on a five-year, $70 million deal after picking up a Super Bowl ring with New England.

2. RICHARD SHERMAN, SEATTLE
The All-Pro selection was the least-targeted cornerback in the NFL last season. One of the most competitive and rangy corners, he challenges every ball in his area.

3. CHRIS HARRIS JR., DENVER
A versatile, skilled outside corner who can also play in the slot or at safety, Harris earned a Pro Bowl invite last season thanks to his standout ball skills.

4. VONTAE DAVIS, INDIANAPOLIS
After a trade from the Dolphins to the Colts, Davis' career as a top coverage corner took off and earned him a Pro Bowl invitation in 2014.

5. PATRICK PETERSON, ARIZONA
After diagnosis and treatment of diabetes, he was back winning his share of one-on-one battles with the league's elite receivers.

6. JOE HADEN, CLEVELAND
Haden is tough in run support and a good open-field tackler. The five-year veteran totaled 73 tackles, 20 passes defended and three interceptions in 2014.

7. SEAN SMITH, KANSAS CITY
His length helps him in press coverage, and he has become more technique conscious. Due to a DUI conviction, Smith likely will be suspended for the first two games.

8. AQIB TALIB, DENVER
Talib earned back-to-back Pro Bowl invitations with New England and Denver, finishing last season with 16 passes defended, four interceptions and two touchdowns.

9. DESMOND TRUFANT, ATLANTA
One of the top young corners in the game, Trufant has good short-area quickness and takes a direct line to the ball with no false steps.

10. ALTERRAUN VERNER, TAMPA BAY
Verner should be a perfect fit in Lovie Smith's Cover 2. He does a good job rerouting receivers with his quick feet and reactions.

11. Rashean Mathis, Detroit
12. Orlando Scandrick, Dallas
13. Corey Graham, Buffalo
14. Byron Maxwell, Philadelphia
15. Antonio Cromartie, N.Y. Jets
16. Darius Slay, Detroit
17. Brandon Flowers, San Diego
18. Chris Culliver, Washington
19. Kareem Jackson, Houston
20. Tim Jennings, Chicago
21. Xavier Rhodes, Minnesota
22. Tramon Williams, Cleveland
23. Brent Grimes, Miami
24. Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, N.Y. Giants
25. Johnathan Joseph, Houston
26. Prince Amukamara, N.Y. Giants
27. Stephon Gilmore, Buffalo
28. William Gay, Pittsburgh
29. Lardarius Webb, Baltimore
30. Perrish Cox, Tennessee

S

1. EARL THOMAS, SEATTLE
A defensive leader who has become a perennial All-Pro-caliber player.

2. ERIC WEDDLE, SAN DIEGO
Consistently mentioned with the game's top free safeties, Weddle earned his fifth All-Pro selection in 2014 and is a standout special teams player.

3. KAM CHANCELLOR, SEATTLE
A cornerstone of the Seahawks' defense as the secondary's physical tone-setter, Chancellor played through a torn MCL in the Super Bowl.

4. GLOVER QUIN, DETROIT
A big-time coverage safety who can cover deep or play the nickel, Quin led the NFL with seven interceptions.

5. TASHAUN GIPSON, CLEVELAND
Second in the league with six interceptions, Gipson also defended eight passes and returned one pick for a touchdown.

6. HARRISON SMITH, MINNESOTA
Smith has emerged as one of the best young safeties in the league. The former Golden Domer had 92 tackles and five interceptions.

7. DEVIN McCOURTY, NEW ENGLAND
The corner-turned-safety is one of the league's most dependable players. McCourty is smart and athletic and has unlimited coverage range.

8. ANTOINE BETHEA, SAN FRANCISCO
After finishing with 14 passes defended (including four INTs), Bethea has been an underrated safety with the general public but not the league's receivers.

9. MIKE ADAMS, INDIANAPOLIS
In his first season with the Colts, Adams reached his first career Pro Bowl at age 33. He intercepted five passes and forced two fumbles last season.

10. RESHAD JONES, MIAMI
The big-hitting safety also plays the ball well in the air. He was responsible for 80 tackles and seven passes defended along with three interceptions in 2014.

11. Jairus Byrd, New Orleans
12. Donte Whitner, Cleveland
13. George Iloka, Cincinnati
14. Malcolm Jenkins, Philadelphia
15. Reggie Nelson, Cincinnati
16. Patrick Chung, New England
17. Michael Griffin, Tennessee
18. Morgan Burnett, Green Bay
19. Robert Blanton, Minnesota
20. T.J. Ward, Denver
21. Antrel Rolle, Chicago
22. Dawan Landry, Free Agent
23. William Moore, Atlanta
24. Da'Norris Searcy, Tennessee
25. Will Hill, Baltimore
26. Calvin Pryor, N.Y. Jets
27. Darian Stewart, Denver
28. Danieal Manning, Free Agent
29. James Ihedigbo, Detroit
30. Nate Allen, Oakland

LEAVING IT ALL BEHIND

San Francisco 49ers linebacker Chris Borland's decision to walk away from football after his rookie season seemed shocking, but he is suddenly not alone in valuing long-term heath above short-term riches and glory. What is going through the minds of players who have made the difficult decision to walk away?

by Brendan Prunty

On the weekend of the NFL Draft, Jack Miller was in Las Vegas.

It was a previously scheduled trip with some college buddies to experience the whole Sin City thing after finishing their senior year at Michigan. There were the usual Vegas trappings, coupled with the added bonus of being in town during one of the most memorable sporting days in recent memory. But there were a few times — actually, more than a few — when Miller found himself in his hotel room, flipping on ESPN or the NFL Network to see what was happening with the draft.

He watched the scroll and saw names of familiar foes throughout the Big Ten. Names of kids he knew from high school games and offseason camps. And of course, three of his Wolverine teammates.

A few years ago, Miller would've pictured this day unfolding differently. He'd be watching with eagerness. He'd be thinking how a year from now, he'd be waiting for his name to be called — waiting to find out which NFL team would be providing his livelihood for the next decade. Instead, Miller was having what he calls his "rare days."

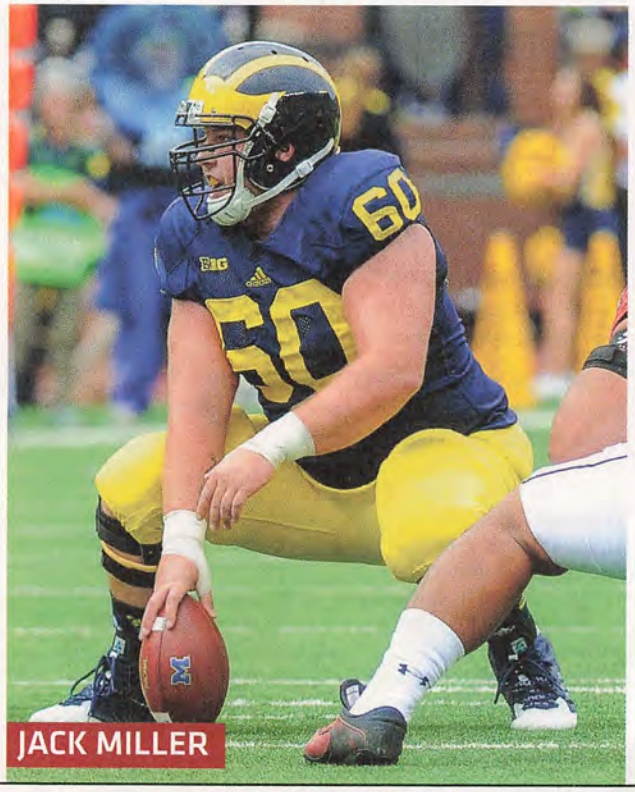
Days where he misses football.

"There are days where it's hard," Miller says, "where I think, 'Boy, I do miss the game.' There's no other way in the world where you can hit somebody at full-speed and not get in trouble for it. Part of that, I have to get used to. But at the end of the day, I know it was the right decision for me. And I'm at peace with it."

Jack Miller is 21 years old. He's in his second month of retirement from the game of football.

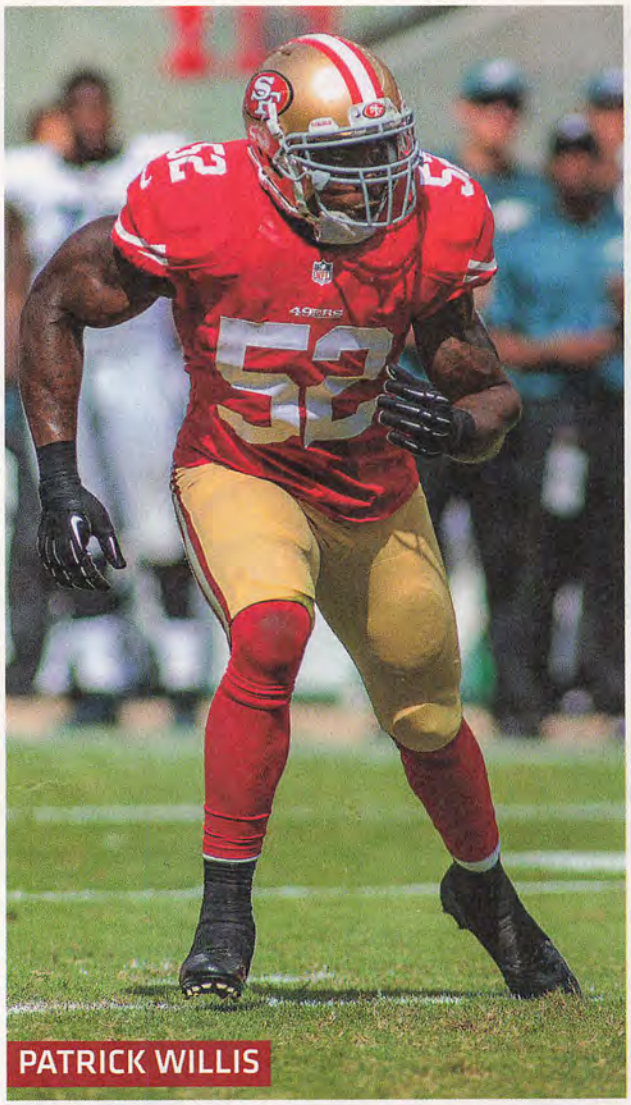
His story, though, is becoming far less uncommon. Miller, a 16-game starter at center for Michigan, announced in early March that he would be leaving the team and quitting football before his fifth season with the Wolverines. One reason was that he was burned out from the game. Another was that he was concerned about his own health, largely because of concussions. He was a kid with a potential future in the NFL who decided that continuing to play wasn't worth the risk.

And he's not the only one who has recently made the difficult decision to walk away. Patrick Willis, the San Francisco 49ers All-Pro linebacker, retired in the offseason at the age of 30 after eight seasons. Jason Worilds, the Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker, retired in March at the age of 27 after five seasons — despite being one of the most coveted free agents this offseason. Jake Locker, the Tennessee Titans quarterback and eighth overall pick in the 2011 draft, called it a career after only four seasons at age 26. And Chris Borland, a linebacker and teammate of Willis in San Francisco, retired at the age of 24 after only one season in the NFL.

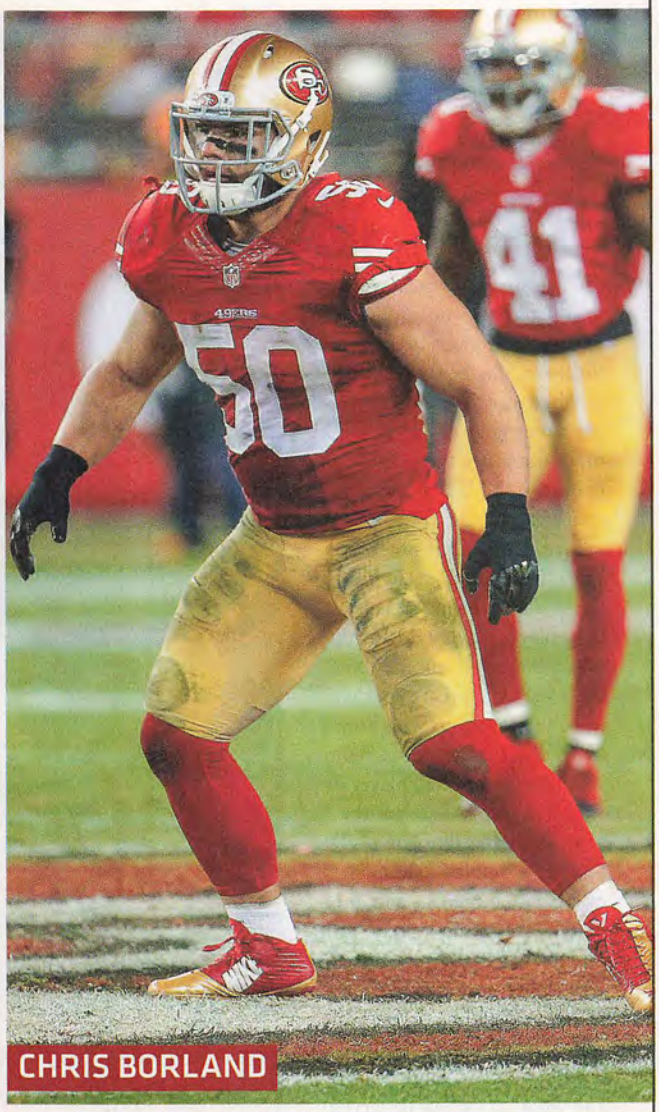


JACK MILLER

Miller, Borland: AP; Willis: Peter Brouillet



PATRICK WILLIS



CHRIS BORLAND

"I just honestly want to do what's best for my health," Borland told ESPN's "Outside the Lines" in March. "From what I've researched and what I've experienced, I don't think it's worth the risk."

He's not alone.

GETTING OUT TOO LATE?

By the time that Hunter Hillenmeyer decided to retire, there wasn't much football left for him to play. At 29, he'd already maxed out his potential with the Chicago Bears. A fifth-round pick out of Vanderbilt in the 2003 draft, he was selected by the Green Bay Packers and was assigned to the team's practice squad. He was cut by the end of the preseason but resurfaced with the Bears and spent most of his rookie season on special teams.

A year later, he started 11 games at strong-side linebacker. The next season, 12 starts. Pretty soon, he was an invaluable member of a Bears linebacking corps that was the nucleus for the 2006 NFC champion team, which lost to the Indianapolis Colts in Super Bowl XLI.

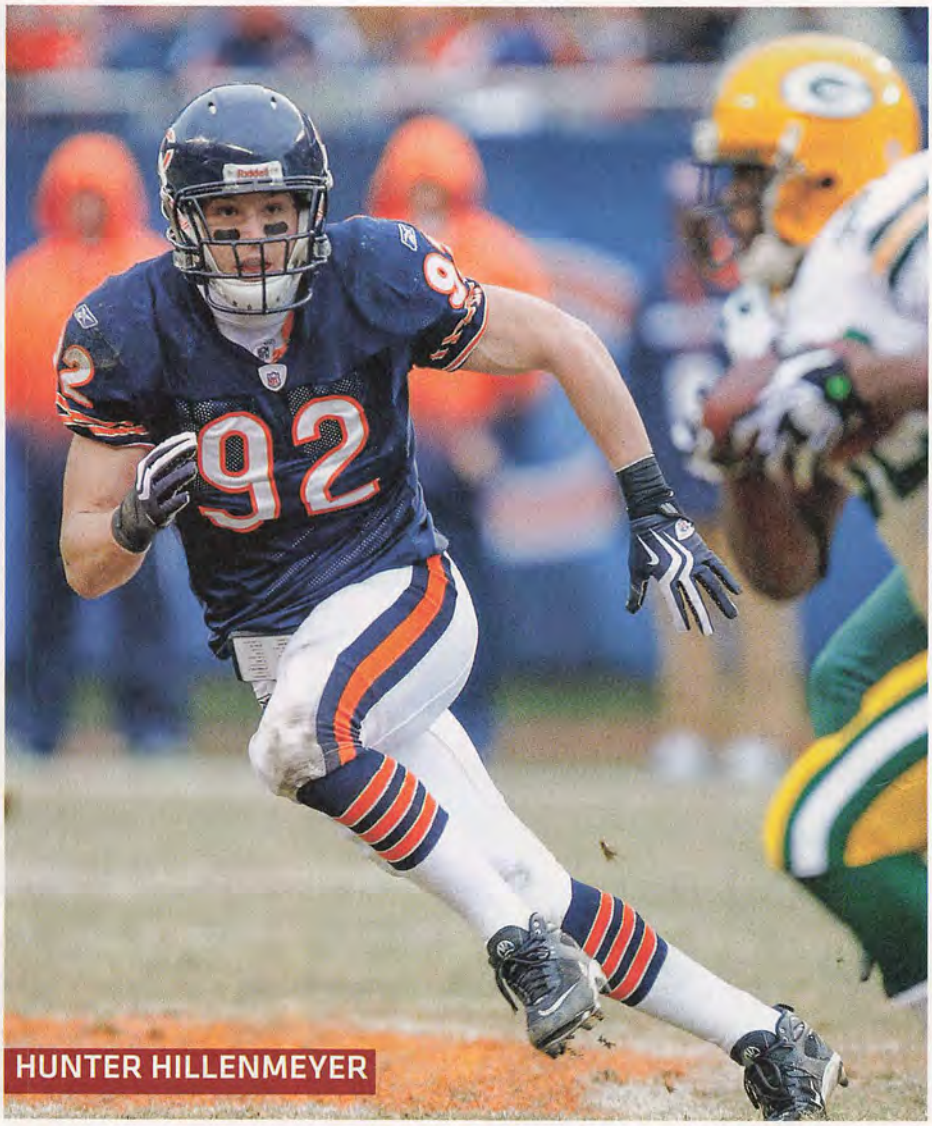
He also was being concussed at an alarming rate.

"I had a concussion in the preseason of 2010, got out there for the season-opener and, without even getting hit, just didn't feel right," Hillenmeyer recalls about his final game. "They pulled me off the field and ran the battery of tests. And after the game, we went through my entire history of my five diagnosed concussions. And the fact is that I had gotten to a susceptibility point where I really couldn't take a hit to the head."

That was when Hillenmeyer knew it was time to retire.

Today, at 34, he doesn't consider his decision to retire to be anything like that of Borland, Willis, Worilds or Locker. Those players decided to walk away from the game while their health was still intact. Hillenmeyer didn't, despite being at the forefront on the head trauma issue during his time in the league. He managed his career around his concussions instead of stopping it because of them.

He says he is symptom-free of any concussions five years later. He doesn't have chronic headaches or memory loss or any of the early signs of CTE (Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy), which has been linked to concussions related to football. Yet, he wonders sometimes if a headache is just a headache or if it's a warning sign of something more serious. If forgetting a phone number or where he put the car keys is cause for alarm.



HUNTER HILLENMEYER

Hillenmeyer has great respect for the players who choose to walk away early, because for them, staying in the game another year for another big payday or fame or any of the other trappings associated with being in the NFL simply isn't a priority.

"I feel great," Hillenmeyer says. "In some ways, the fact that I was as informed as I was for a player playing during the 2000s helped. Even in 2006-07, I was aware that I needed to be very cautious with how I handled a brain injury. But when you're a retired player in your 30s and you look at the generation ahead of you — I've been to a couple of alumni events in Chicago — and anecdotally, they paint a pretty grim picture."

Hillenmeyer knows that his situation might be on the rosier side, too. He was an academic All-American at Vanderbilt and while in the league served on the NFL's Player Safety and Welfare Committee. He was privy to the arguments being made by the medical community about the long-term effects of concussions.

Hillenmeyer, who co-founded the gaming app company Over-Dog, where fans can compete against pro athletes, wonders what his life might be like in a few years if that "grim picture" becomes a reality for him. He never hid concussions from the Bears, but he also continued to play the sport even though he was aware of the risks. He wonders if going the route that Borland, Worilds and Willis took might not have been the better plan.

"You don't see a lot of guys that are aging very well — and that scares you," Hillenmeyer says of his conversations with older NFL retirees. "Unless you're just burying your head in the sand, any player would get a little nervous when they look at that. So at worst, you're headed in the exact same trajectory. So you do have to step back, take pause and ask yourself, 'Was it all worth it?'"

'IT'S KIND OF LIKE A DEPRESSION'

Before the end came for Reggie Wilkes, he had begun the process of preparing himself. A linebacker with the Eagles and Falcons from 1978-87, Wilkes took classes at Temple University's School of Medicine early in his career. After realizing that medical school and the NFL couldn't co-exist, he turned his attention to business, and he began taking classes at Penn's Wharton School.

Midway through his career, he started working for Merrill Lynch in the offseason as a second job. So when he was released following an injury during the 1987 season, he decided it was time for the next step.

"I was just ready, mentally, to go and move on," Wilkes says. "I knew it was going to end."

Why is Wilkes' story an important one? Because he was prepared for life after the NFL. He parlayed his experiences with Merrill Lynch while he was a player into a successful career in business, returning to the wealth management giant in 2007. He is now a senior financial advisor in suburban Philadelphia, where many of his clients are current or former professional athletes.

And more often than not, he sees players who think they are mentally ready to leave professional sports. But most aren't.

"Every professional athlete — whether you've played one year in the league or 10 — goes through a physiological change," Wilkes says. "It's kind of like a depression. You're trying to figure out how you wean yourself off of something that you've been so

AP

> ***"You don't see a lot of guys that are aging very well – and that scares you. Unless you're just burying your head in the sand, any player would get a little nervous when they look at that. So at worst, you're headed in the exact same trajectory. So you do have to step back, take pause and ask yourself, 'Was it all worth it?'"***
>
> **– Hunter Hillenmeyer**, former Bears linebacker

emotionally and physically attached to."

For Wilkes, his safety net was his financial career. For Hillenmeyer, it was his own company.

Some players transition better than others.

Running back Rashard Mendenhall, a former first-round pick in 2008 with the Steelers, abruptly retired after the 2013 season. He was 26. "Football was pretty cool, but I don't want to play anymore," he wrote in an article for The Huffington Post announcing his retirement. Mendenhall is now a screenwriter, living in Los Angeles, where he recently served as a script consultant for an upcoming HBO series about the life of retired pro football players.

Worilds, whose representatives declined an interview for this story on his behalf, left the NFL and began working with the Jehovah's Witnesses.

For others, the absence of football can only make a bad situation worse.

"For football players, on average, the retirement age is 25," Wilkes says. "You still have 60 years of living, so you've got to figure out how your money is going to last. Players don't think about that — that normal people are earning income until around 55 years, but for football players, it's half that. The average length of a career is 3.5 years, so once you're 25, you're on the down end of your career in football."

A NEW PATH

When he's asked about football, Miller is clear: He did not leave the game to become a crusader against it.

Without football, he doesn't get from Perrysburg, Ohio, to the University of Michigan. Without football, he doesn't get the opportunity to learn some of the life lessons about discipline, accountability and teamwork. Without football, he doesn't get to begin the next phase of his life — entering the business world.

But at some point, between high school and college, it stopped being fun.

"It's a job. It's your livelihood, whereas before that, it's a game," Miller says. "It becomes work, and that's okay. We all know that's what we're signing up for."

Miller had thoughts last season about making the 2014 campaign his final one in a Michigan uniform, but he decided to give it another go after Jim Harbaugh was hired to replace Brady Hoke. He went through the offseason workout programs and the first week of spring practice — which he described as one of his best. But he no longer had the desire to play and announced his intention to leave the team.

"For some people that's really hard to understand," he says. "And I understand that. To play college football is a blessing."

There were some people who tried to convince him that he was making a short-sighted and ill-informed decision. Miller wouldn't be swayed. He had already suffered one concussion in high school, and he believes he had two or three more at Michigan (though he only reported one). Given what he knows about the long-terms effects, he decided that if he had lost the desire to play, it wasn't worth it.

Miller wasn't the only college football player to make that decision this spring. Vanderbilt quarterback Patton Robinette — who started five games in two seasons — retired from the sport in March. Robinette, who will enroll at Vanderbilt's School of Medicine in the fall, missed five games last fall after suffering a concussion against South Carolina. He also had a concussion in high school.

West Virginia quarterback Clint Trickett, a two-year starter, was forced into retirement before the Mountaineers' bowl game. Trickett had suffered five concussions in a 14-month span. He hid two of them from team trainers in order to keep playing.

That's a familiar refrain, even at the next level.

"After I retired, I had two good friends of mine who were still on the Bears call me with a slightly different version of the same story," Hillenmeyer says. "That Tuesday or Wednesday after they took a big hit in a game, they definitely felt a little bit off, but they didn't tell the trainers or get noticed by the trainers. But now they were pretty sure they had a concussion, and they were trying to decide whether or not to tell the doctors."

That's why Borland decided not to risk more years in the NFL. That's why Willis and Worilds and Locker made the same decision. That's why Hillenmeyer decided it was time to stop playing and trying to avoid the next big hit. That's why Wilkes warns players that their careers won't last forever.

That's why one of Miller's "rare days" when he misses football lasted only briefly during the NFL Draft.

It was his dream, but now he has a different one. He hopes to get into high school coaching, where he can work with kids before the game of football gets to be too big.

"Some people love the game more than I do, and that's their only way," he says. "And that's fine. That's their prerogative. For me, it wasn't that. And I'm very excited about the next chapter."

Something to PROVE

Teams can strike gold with undrafted free agents eager to show they belong

By Michael Bradley

Ryan Hewitt, who had only 59 receptions and 28 carries during his career at Stanford, overcame his draft snub and made the Bengals' roster as an undrafted free agent.

Somebody from an NFL team told Ryan Hewitt he would be drafted in the fourth round last year, so he figured he was set. Maybe the fourth was a little too high, but he would definitely find a home by the sixth round. Seventh, for sure.

The Bengals weren't as bullish on Hewitt as a fourth-rounder, but they were definitely thinking about choosing the Stanford fullback/tight end/H-back during the final two rounds. But, as things often go on draft day, there were other needs to be addressed, bigger holes to be filled. Cincinnati never selected Hewitt.

Nobody else did, either. Throughout the draft's third day, Hewitt heard from a couple teams that told him that he was a possible sixth- or seventh-round pick. Stay tuned, they said. Be ready. He was ready, all right. He was also left out on the street.

"It's tough," he says. "You work your whole career, and you want to hear your name called on TV."

When it was all over, when even Mr. Irrelevant had received the Happy Call, things started to get really weird. A guy who hadn't drawn enough interest to get a single team to choose him in three days of drafting all of a sudden could have used about four more phones. Teams were calling him. His agent was calling him. Teams were calling his agent. His agent was calling teams. After spending almost three days experiencing nothing but dashed hopes and dreams, Hewitt was in serious demand.

"I spent 15 minutes on the phone with my agent and different teams trying to figure out where to go," Hewitt says.

That was it. Hewitt had only 15 minutes to decide. So did hundreds of other players throughout the nation. The minute the draft ends, and sometimes even before it ends, NFL teams embark on a high-speed chase for undrafted free agents, in order to sign those who weren't chosen. In some cases, the goal is to fill out a roster for mini-camps, OTAs and training camp. But in the case of players like Hewitt, it's much more. Cincinnati director of player personnel Duke Tobin had spent some time with Hewitt before the draft and had made a note to pursue him if nobody chose the Stanford product. The Bengals sold Hewitt on a chance to compete for a roster spot, not just be a body to step in during spring and summer drills. Sure, he was a "tweener," and his versatility hurt him because he didn't have one specific position. But he was a tough, talented football player, and the Bengals liked that.

Hewitt: Ric Fogel/Sportfolio; Gates: Peter Brouillet

"We had laid the groundwork with Ryan," Tobin says. "Throughout the pre-draft process, we had visited with him, and when the draft was over, we immediately recruited him."

Things worked out well for Hewitt. He made the team and played in all 16 games as a tight end, fullback and special teams performer. Hewitt caught 10 passes, ran the ball once (for no gain) and made four tackles as part of coverage units. He certainly wasn't on any short lists for Rookie of the Year, but Hewitt contributed to the team's playoff run and impressed coach Marvin Lewis, who was talking about Hewitt's 2015 opportunities as early as last August. Though he had plenty of suitors in those frenzied minutes after the draft, Hewitt made a good choice.

"I chose Cincinnati because of its style of offense and the personnel they had," Hewitt says. "I thought I could make an impact and beat people out. It was the best fit."

Teams bring in around 15 undrafted free agents each year, usually with little or no fanfare. But while the vast majority end up getting cut or finding spots on practice squads, there are some big success stories, and plenty do make teams' 53-man rosters. As of October 2014, there were 74 undrafted rookies playing on Sundays.

Jeff Saturday spent 14 years playing center for Indianapolis (13) and Green Bay (one), reaching six Pro Bowls and earning two first-team All-Pro nods. And one of the heroes of last year's Super Bowl, Patriots cornerback Malcolm Butler, was not picked in the 2014 draft. This isn't just a recent phenomenon. There have been dozens of great NFL performers who were not chosen, even when the draft used to encompass more than seven rounds.

Quarterback Kurt Warner, tight end Antonio Gates, defensive tackle John Randle, wideout Wes Welker and even legendary cornerback Dick "Night Train" Lane made it through the annual "Player Selection Meeting" unwanted. In today's world of highly specialized scouting, it's unlikely we will see too many Hall of Famers joining the league from the streets; but there are 15 undrafted players who have made it to Canton. There are only 13 No. 1 overall picks there. Every year there is talent left out of the draft, and teams work hard to identify and sign players who can help them.

"Once you get to the seventh round, the difference between getting picked and not getting picked is almost none," Tobin says. "If you fit a team's needs better, you get picked. But it's difficult to know what guys aren't going to get picked.

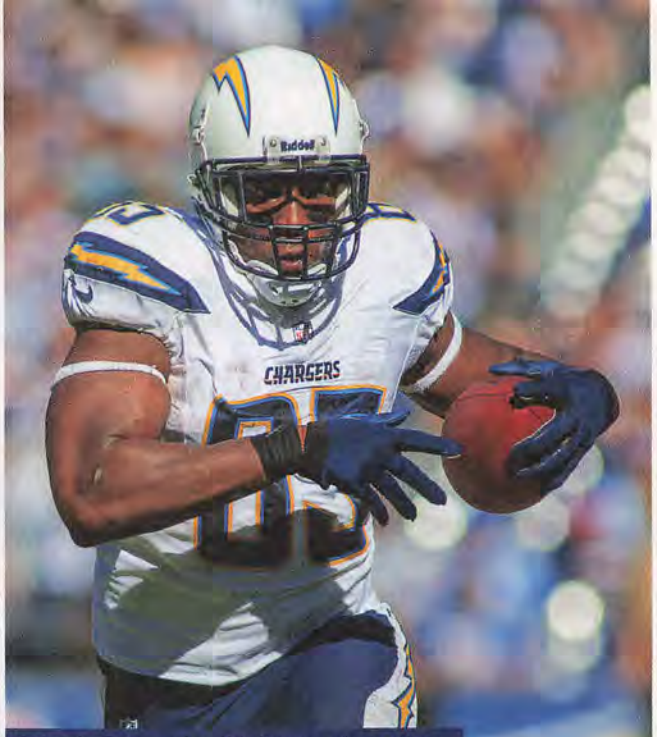
"After the draft, it's surprising. You say, 'Oh, he didn't get picked. Oh, he didn't get picked. Oh, he didn't get picked.'"

• • •

Saturday remembers the moment when his confidence in the NFL Draft process began to waver. He was standing against a wall during the 1998 NFL Combine when someone yelled out how long his arms had measured. One of the ways teams often judge a lineman's potential is by reach. A player with longer arms is more capable of fending off the advances of enemy defenders. Those who allow opposing linemen to get closer are at a disadvantage. Or so the reasoning goes. Although Saturday was a two-time first-team All-ACC center, he didn't fit the NFL stereotype for the position. He was listed generously at 6'2" and weighed just 285 pounds. And then there were those arms.

"When they yelled out my arm length, everybody looked down at their clipboards and started writing," Saturday says of the assembled scouts and personnel execs. "I said, 'That's not a good sign.' Later, my agent called me and said not to worry. I told him, 'These are the same arms I played so well with in college.'"

The Combine markdown was the beginning of a tough stretch for Saturday, who despite being the third-ranked center heading into the annual poke-and-prod session, wasn't chosen. A couple teams had called during the second day (the Draft didn't expand to three sessions until 2010) to tell Saturday that he was being considered, but none had made the Big Call. To make things



Antonio Gates, who didn't even play college football, is one of the most successful undrafted free agents in NFL history.

even more difficult, Saturday's agent, Ralph Cindrich, represented UNC defensive end Greg Ellis, who had been a first-round pick of the Cowboys. Cindrich was traveling to Dallas the second day of the draft, and he wasn't available to help Saturday navigate the free-agent morass.

As a result, it took Saturday a week to hook on with Baltimore. But the relationship didn't last too long. In fact, Saturday didn't even make it to training camp with the Ravens.

"I got to Baltimore, and they had franchised their center Wally Williams (ironically another undrafted free agent) and had another center, Jeff Mitchell, that they had drafted (the year before)," Saturday says. "I walked into the offensive line meeting room, and it was full of giants. Everybody weighed 330 pounds, and here I am at 285. It was not the room for me."

Saturday spent almost a year working as a manager at an electrical supply store in Raleigh. He was staying in shape, but it wasn't as if NFL teams were suddenly realizing the colossal error they had made and begging him to sign with him. It took his former college roommate, Nate Hobgood-Chittick, to make it happen. In 1999, Hobgood-Chittick had been picked up by Indianapolis, and though he had no professional cachet, he went into Colts GM Bill Polian's office and told him he had to sign Saturday. Polian, who had been in Carolina while Saturday played at UNC, remembered the center and signed him. Once there, Saturday fit into line coach Howard Mudd's system, which emphasized speed and intelligence over brawn.

"(Polian) gave me a shot," Saturday says. "Howard Mudd told me he wanted an aggressive football player who did exactly what he said. It worked out well, and I spent 14 years in the league."

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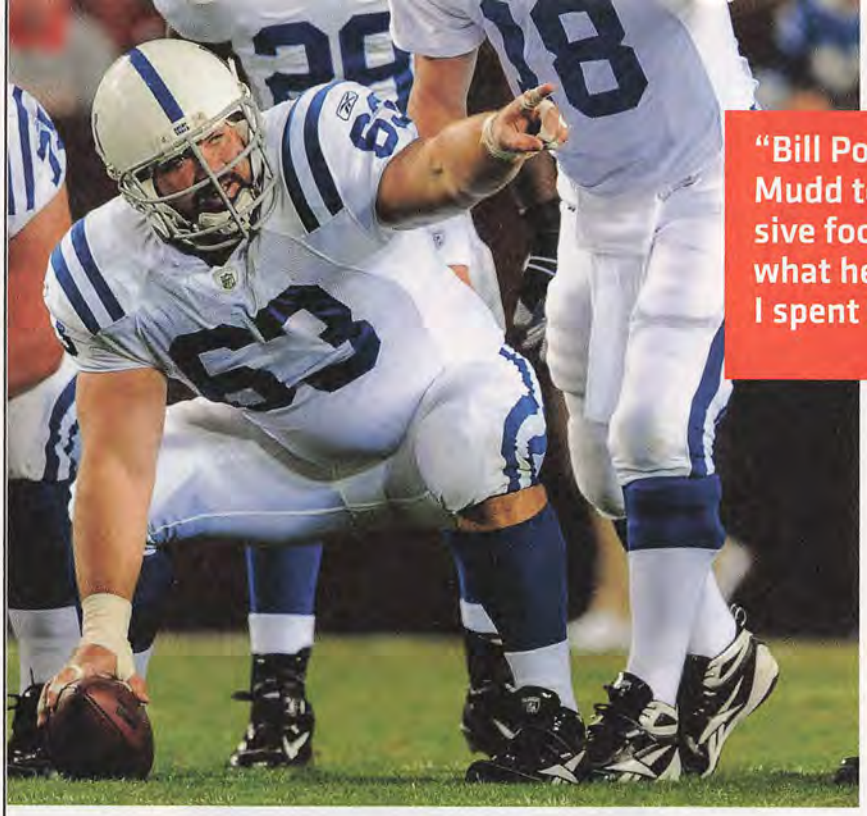
The months leading up to the NFL Draft can seem like weeding a giant flowerbed that has been untended for months. As many as 6,000 players are eligible to be chosen. Of course, most of them have no business being in an NFL team's building, much less on the field every Sunday. Once the easy work is done, and about 90 percent of the players are eliminated from consideration, it's time to find the prospects who might just be able to play for a team.

A team can have 250 players on its draft board. Or 300. Maybe



"Bill Polian gave me a shot. Howard Mudd told me he wanted an aggressive football player who did exactly what he said. It worked out well, and I spent 14 years in the league."
– Jeff Saturday

only 200. That's a lot of people to consider when there are only seven rounds. The key component for all of them is fit. Houston may only have 150 of the same players on its board that the Jets do. Not everybody thinks the same way about each prospect, particularly if one plays a 3-4 defense, and the other is a 4-3 squad.

"We look at players who can come in and compete for roster spots," Seattle director of college scouting Scott Fitterer says. "We don't have a set number on the board."

It's pretty obvious that certain players will be gone well before the frenzied rush to sign free agents begins. That's not something Fitterer and his fellow executives worry about when trying to decide who will be there. Their focus is on the late-round prospects — like Hewitt — who could escape the sixth and seventh round. According to Fitterer, the Seahawks treat every collegian the same way, analyzing strengths and weaknesses, the better to get an idea who would best fit their roster. Tobin says he and his staff evaluate and speak before the draft with players who weren't invited to the Combine or who may not have performed well in Indianapolis. The Bengals bring dozens of players to their facilities to work them out, interview them and determine whether they will fit the team's needs.

Teams all over the league have had success mining the undrafted ranks. Fitterer estimates "five or six" players on Seattle's Super Bowl XLVIII-winning team were free agents. Jermaine Kearse, who caught the winning TD in overtime against Green Bay in last year's NFC Championship Game and two weeks later made the amazing reception in the waning moments of the Super Bowl, was signed by the Seahawks in 2012, after he wasn't selected. Another Seattle wideout, Doug Baldwin, wasn't chosen in 2011 but impressed Seattle enough that it gave him a three-year, $13 million extension last spring.

"We're looking to find extremely competitive guys with athletic ability and a skill set that fits our style," Fitterer says. "If there is a 6'1" corner that runs a 4.4 (40-yard dash) but is undeveloped, we're intrigued. We look at him as a developmental project. Our coaches are teachers."

Even if a player is cut by a team during training camp, he still has film on his play from practices and preseason games that he can use to pitch his talents to someone else. Just being with a team confers a status on a player and makes it a little easier for him to find a spot with someone else. It's rare that someone like Saturday or Warner, who spent a lot of time out of football, gets a position. That's why it's important that while teams are evaluating them, the players do their homework and figure out what team is best for them. A prospect could receive calls from five or six teams during the half-hour following the draft's completion. If he merely signs with his childhood favorite, he could be making a big mistake. Players and their agents must pay close attention to teams' styles and how crowded their particular position is on the roster.

"The kids are more educated than ever," Fitterer says. "They are able to search on-line and look at depth charts. They are informed."

While undrafted players need to make informed decisions, teams' desires to sign them continue to grow. The thrill of unearthing a talent and having him contribute is a victory; adding a piece to the roster at a low cost, most often at the rookie minimum, has equal appeal. When the Seahawks won the Super Bowl, they did so with a large number of players whose salaries were quite manageable. Teams able to stock the shelves without bestowing gigantic contracts on all of them are able to strike a fine balance between their stars and everyone else. It may sound somewhat unfair, but the rigid, salary cap-driven economics of the league mandate that approach. Teams love to find young players they can use for special teams and spot work on offense and defense.

The bonus is that those who make teams from the "streets" are highly motivated to prove themselves. They were left out of the draft pool, and they want to make everyone aware of their mistakes. Fitterer remembers that Baldwin and Kearse elevated themselves to "special" status due to their drive to show that they belonged in the NFL.

"They have a chip on their shoulders when they come in here," Fitterer says. "And the guys with the chips on their shoulders often separate themselves from the rest."

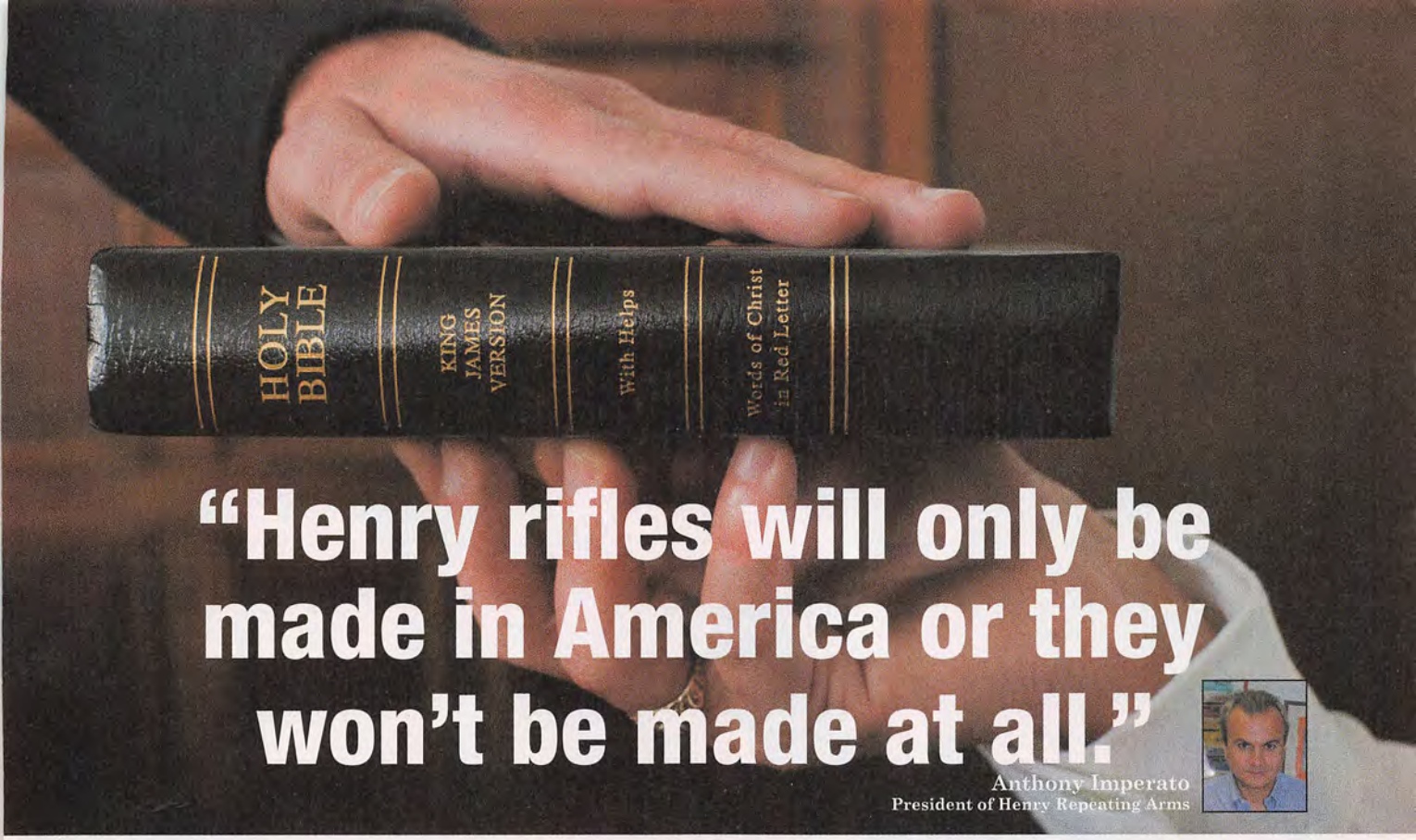
• • •

Hewitt enjoyed his first year with the Bengals, and he's looking forward to enlarging his role in 2015. He doesn't, however, expect any favors. He knows the team will bring in a player — or perhaps more — to compete with him this year. He isn't a first-round pick with a guaranteed contract, or even a middle-round choice with a bit more job security. When the Bengals convene for training camp, the next Ryan Hewitt could be on the field, looking to impress and defy convention by grabbing a roster spot.

"I am expecting them to bring in competition," Hewitt says. "Iron sharpens iron. I expect them to bring in a stud who can help them. That's not my concern. They have to do what's best for the team."

And they look just about everywhere to do so.

Jonathan Ernst/Reuters/Landov



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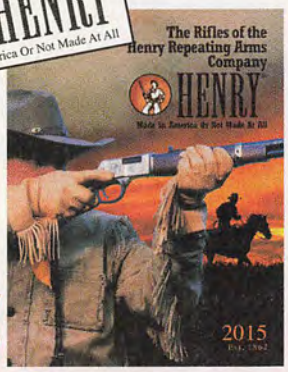

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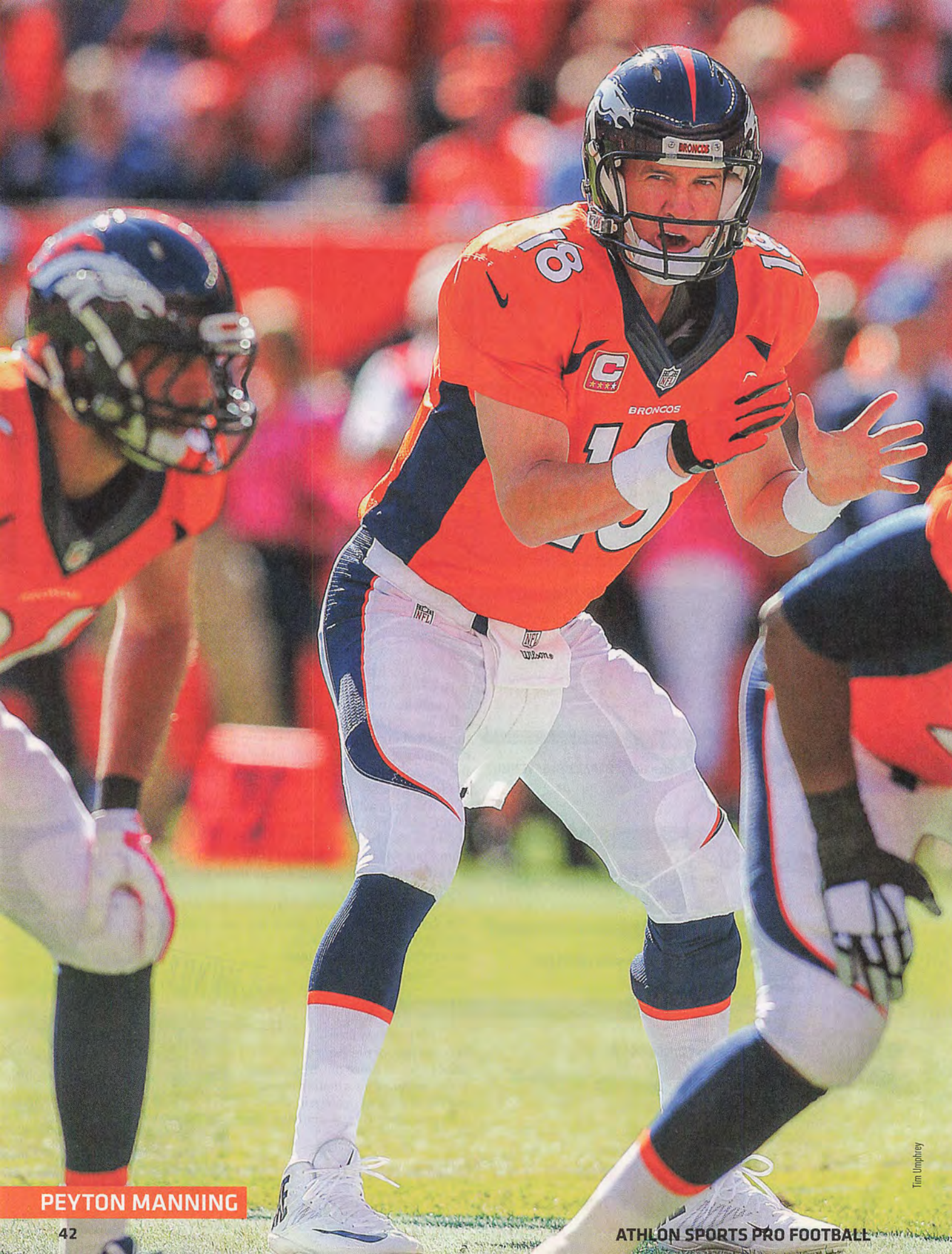


Tim Umphrey

PEYTON MANNING

Old is NEW Again

Broncos hope some old friends can bring new life to Super Bowl quest

By Jim Armstrong

At 39, after 17 years of absorbing blindside hits and carrying the weight and fate of two franchises on his shoulders, is it any surprise that Peyton Manning is tired? He's tired, all right. Tired of answering all those questions about his age.

NFL history is littered with cautionary tales of quarterbacks who were highly productive into their mid-30s, only to lose the race with Father Time as they approached 40. So how will Manning fare in this, his 18th season of working on Sundays?

"You can't lump them all into the same category," says Manning, when asked about all those other 39-year-old quarterbacks. "I think there are young 39s and old 39s. I'm in that young group, for sure. It's all about trying to do your job no matter how old you are, whether you're a 22-year-old rookie coming in or not. I guess I have to answer questions about it, but I'm not interested in talking about how old I am."

That age-old saying about being only as old as you feel? Now that's what Manning is talking about. Like Bob Seger, he has turned the page on a disappointing, if not depressing 2014 season, and is ready to rock 'n' roll.

There's no denying how ugly Manning's third season in Denver was. Sure, the Broncos won 12 games and their fourth straight AFC West title. But they didn't just lose their one and only playoff game. With their season on the line, they didn't bother to show up. Instead, they imploded under the weight of personal agendas, with several players and coaches running for their professional lives the moment the final anticlimactic seconds ticked away.

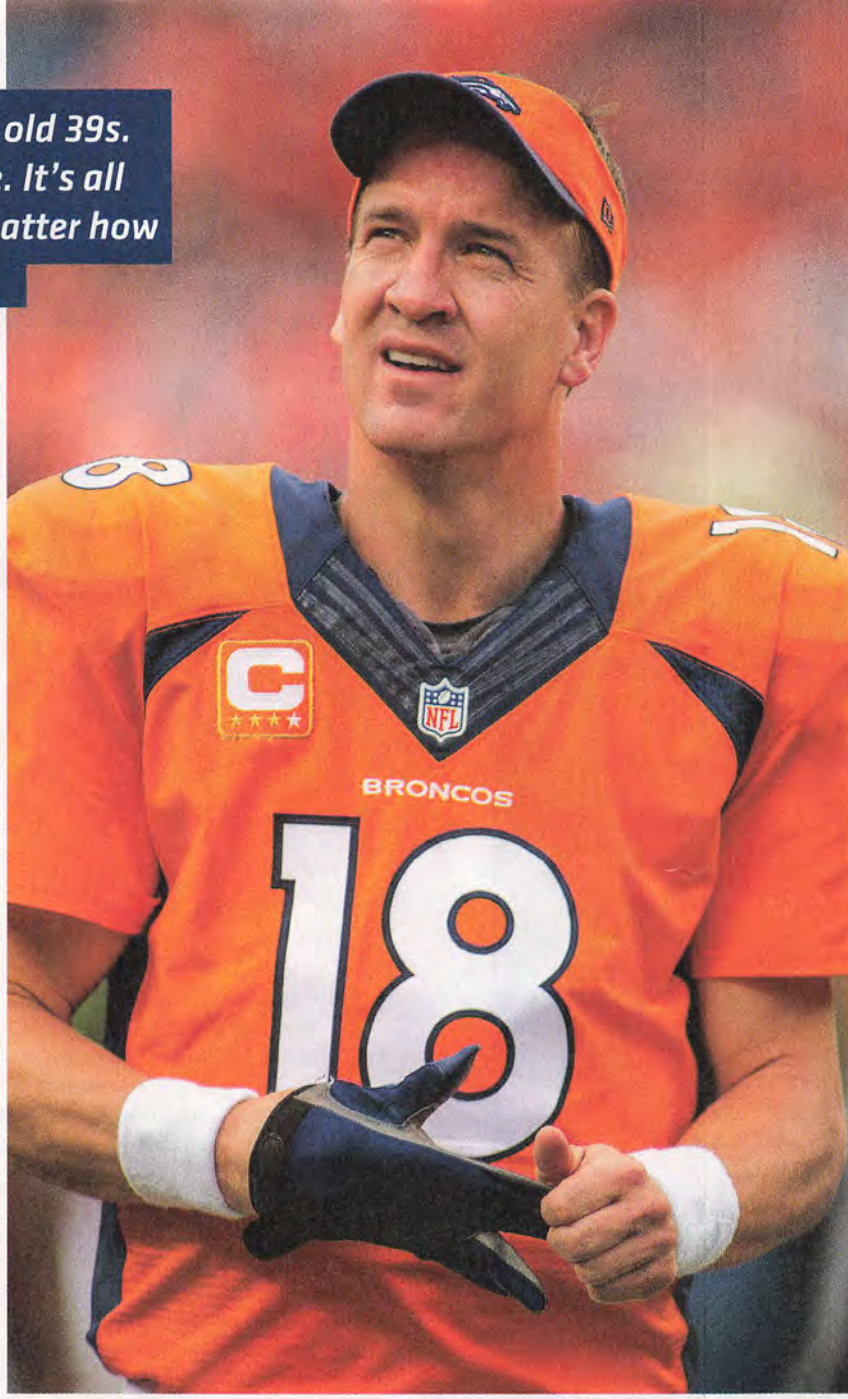
Manning ended the season with a torn right quadriceps, a sizeable dent in his ego, and a major career decision to make: To return or not to return? That was the question. Or at least that was the storyline among the media. Truth is, Manning was never serious about walking away.

It happens every spring. Manning, in a personal rite of passage, sets aside his emotions and soldiers on in preparation for another season. It's in his DNA. It's what he does, who he is, how he's wired. The myth and the legend can wait. He still wants to be The Man. Whether retirement is off on the horizon or just over the dashboard, he's going to keep the pedal to the metal and compete.

Oh, and let the record show that a new coaching staff, headlined by former Broncos offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak and several assistants with long-time ties to the organization, has only served to rejuvenate him more than usual. It isn't just apparent. It's blatantly obvious to everyone who's seen Manning sweating it out behind the scenes at the Broncos' suburban Denver training facility.

"He's still got a lot of juice in him," says Broncos wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders. "For everyone, last year was a disappointment. But at the same time, it's a new year so everyone is rejuvenated. It's

"I think there are young 39s and old 39s. I'm in that young group, for sure. It's all about trying to do your job no matter how old you are." – Peyton Manning



Peter Brouillet

the same thing with Peyton. You talk about a guy who understands that the clock is ticking for him. He loves this game. I've never seen a guy who loves the game of football as much as he loves it. That passion and that spark is there."

Duke head coach David Cutcliffe, Manning's offensive coordinator back in the day at the University of Tennessee, wasn't sure what to expect when Manning arrived in Durham, N.C., for his annual offseason passing camp. But Cutcliffe told nationally syndicated radio host Jim Rome that Manning was a "boatload of energy and enthusiasm."

Why shouldn't Manning be excited? He has fielded countless questions about how he'll fit into Kubiak's zone-blocking, run-oriented offense that requires the quarterback to make plays outside the pocket, foreign territory for Manning. But all those questions miss the fundamental point. Fact is, Manning and everyone else in the Broncos organization needed a change.

After three years of Super Bowl or bust, former head coach John Fox had run his course in Denver. Emotions were frayed, and game-planning sessions were giving way to travel itineraries. In the days preceding the Broncos' 24–13 playoff loss to Indianapolis, both coordinators, Jack Del Rio and Adam Gase, were off interviewing for head coaching jobs. On the morning of the game, a national television report linked Fox to the head coaching job in Chicago.

Add a handful of starters with one eye on their playbooks and another on free-agent paydays, and the Broncos were anything but focused to make a second straight Super Bowl run. The day after the loss, Fox was gone. Three days later, he was hired by the Bears amid speculation — which Fox denies, but no one in the Broncos' organization is buying — that he leaked his interest in the job because of Elway's refusal to give him a contract extension. Del Rio, meanwhile, became head coach of the Raiders, and Gase joined Fox as offensive coordinator in Chicago.

If last season was filled with friction in Denver, this year will be defined by the excitement over the hiring of Kubiak, who served as Elway's roommate and backup for nine years and later was Mike Shanahan's offensive coordinator from 1995-2005 before leaving to become head coach of the Houston Texans. After leaving Houston he had settled in as offensive coordinator in Baltimore, telling teams he wasn't interested in interviewing for head coaching positions. And then all heaven broke loose: The Broncos job became available.

"This is a game changer," says Kubiak. "It's as simple as that. This is where I got my start. This is home for me. I can't wait to just go out there and fight the fight and believe in this city, this team and this organization. I was standing there with them when they won their last championship, and that's what we all work for."

"I know what Gary Kubiak is about," Elway says. "I had a chance to play with him and play for him. I know his philosophies and I know what he can do. I know his goals are the same as mine, and that's to win and win world championships. He's a Denver Bronco. He knows the culture of this organization. He knows the culture of this building."

And he isn't alone. Defensive coordinator Wade Phillips had the same job in Denver from 1989-92 before serving as the Broncos' head coach from 1993-94. Offensive coordinator Rick Dennison played linebacker for the Broncos and was an assistant coach on Shanahan's staff before joining Kubiak in Houston. Then there's special teams coordinator Joe DeCamillis, who has become one of the most respected assistants in the league after cutting his teeth on father-in-law Dan Reeves' Broncos staffs more than 20 years ago.

Phillips doesn't renovate defenses, he resurrects them. To wit: The

1988 Broncos had perhaps the worst defense of the Reeves era. One year later, with Phillips orchestrating the defense, they played in the Super Bowl. The 2003 San Diego Chargers finished 4–12. After hiring Phillips, they won 12 games and finished atop the AFC West. The Texans were 6–10 before Kubiak hired Phillips, whereupon they made their first-ever playoff appearance.

Phillips faces a different type of challenge in Denver. The Broncos return a handful of Pro Bowlers on the defensive side of the ball. Granted, statistics can lie in today's NFL, but the Broncos finished third in the league in 2014 in overall defense. The challenge, then, isn't to resurrect the defense so much as take it to the next level. That, of course, being the stuff of Super Bowl champions.

"I was a lousy head coach, but I'm a pretty good defensive coordinator," says Phillips, who came out of retirement to rejoin Kubiak in Denver. "That's what I do well. I just wanted to get back to doing that and I couldn't be happier. This is probably the best situation, defensively, that I've come into. … Normally they have a bad year and they've brought me in as defensive coordinator. This team has a lot of talent on defense, but we're going to do better."

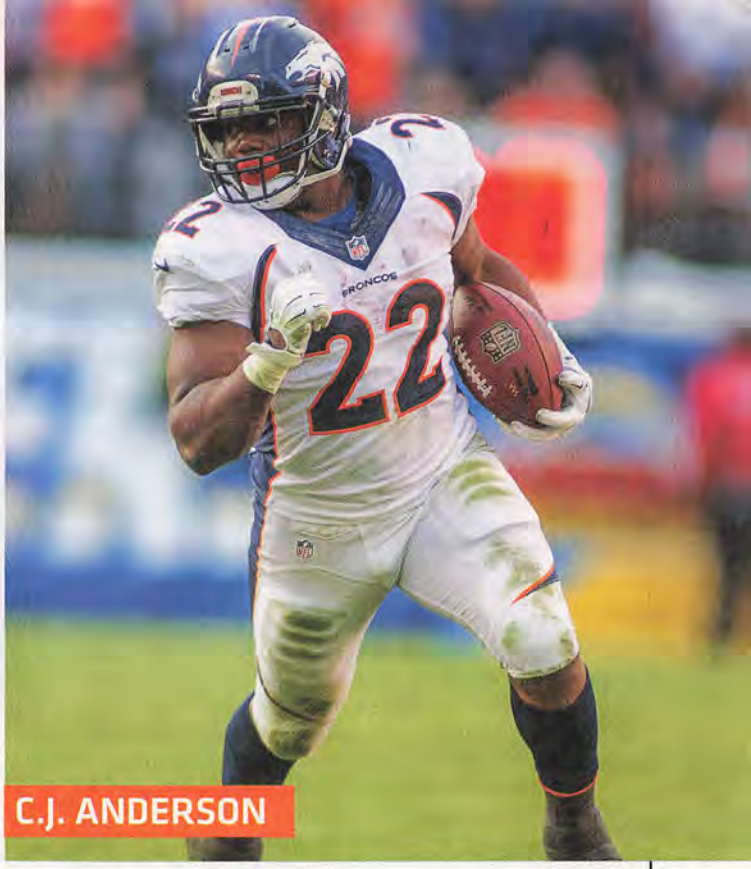
Twelve wins and four consecutive division championships, and the song remains the same in Denver: What have you done for us lately? Welcome to life in the Rockies with Manning under center. Ever since the five-time MVP's arrival in March 2012, the Broncos have been a one-trick pony with one singular goal, one primary purpose, one reason for being. As Fox discovered, getting to the Super Bowl isn't good enough.

Elway knows what Manning is going through, having walked in those shoes in a previous professional life. It's remarkable, the similar paths the two have taken. Elway was the first pick in the 1983 draft, 15 years before the Colts selected Manning No. 1. Elway, like Manning, received more than his share of criticism before finally winning a Super Bowl. Elway spent 16 seasons with the same franchise, two more than Manning. During his Hall of Fame career, Elway engineered 35 fourth-quarter comebacks and 46 game-winning drives. And how many did Manning have on his résumé when he signed with the Broncos? Thirty-five comebacks and 46 game-winning drives.

Elway won Super Bowls at age 37 and 38 despite an assortment of injuries, including a deteriorating left knee that ultimately led to replacement surgery. How did he do it? With Terrell Davis behind him in the backfield grinding out huge clumps of yards in Shanahan's system, the same one employed by Kubiak. Now comes C.J. Anderson, who emerged from the shadows last season — 17 carries in the Broncos' first seven regular-season games, 648 rushing yards in their final six — to earn a Pro Bowl berth. In Elway's mind, the threat of Anderson breaking loose for big plays in Kubiak's offense can do for Manning what Davis did for him.

"Peyton could fit in this offense very easily," says Elway. "It's a very helpful offense. It's a lot more dependent on balance so Peyton is hopefully not going to have to throw the ball 50 or 55 times. As an older quarterback, it's a perfect system to be in. It's really a great system for any quarterback, but I think it's even more helpful the older you get."

It's not like Manning will morph into a game manager or one of those other catch phrases that describe your basic mediocre quarterback. He's coming off a season in which he threw 39 touchdown passes, a career year for most quarterbacks, and undoubtedly would have had more if he hadn't struggled down the stretch with the quad injury. If he's going to win that elusive second Super Bowl, it will be in Denver, with Elway and another former quarterback, Kubiak, forming the foundation of his support system.



C.J. ANDERSON

Ask him about adjusting to Kubiak's offense, and Manning has to suppress a laugh.

"I like to think I'm pretty versatile, believe it or not," says Manning, smirk completely intact. "I feel like I can execute whatever plays the coach calls. … You're always looking into learning football. Whether you've got changes or you're doing the same thing, you're always learning out there. As soon as you stop learning, something is not going right. So I'm looking forward to learning Coach Kubiak's philosophies and trying to do my part as a quarterback. I'm looking forward to the process."

Says Kubiak: "We're going to do what he does best. Obviously, if we run the ball well, which we plan on doing, we're going to move the quarterback (out of the pocket) at some point. … He's been very excited. He's been challenged. He said that to me a couple of times: 'I'm challenged again. I'm having to learn new stuff because I've been doing this for so long.' I think that's good for all of us no matter how long you've been in the league."

Now about all those other 39-year-old quarterbacks. Elway, at 38, is the oldest starting quarterback ever to win a Super Bowl. Since 1983, only two quarterbacks 39 or older — Phil Simms and Brett Favre — have won playoff games. Some 39-year-olds, most notably Favre and Warren Moon, have put up nice numbers, but quarterbacks that old typically are stopgaps. They're starters by default because their teams couldn't find a younger alternative. Now comes Manning, who'll try to lead the new-look Broncos to a Super Bowl victory with his 40th birthday on the horizon.

No-huddle offense, meet the no-time-to-waste offense.

"With Peyton, obviously there isn't much he can add to his legacy," says Elway. "As I told him, 'You don't have to throw for another yard and you don't need to throw another touchdown pass because your legacy is going to be one of the all-time greats as it is.' Where he can really add to his legacy is to win a Super Bowl."

POWER STRUGGLES

Egos and Agendas Often Prevent Coaches and GMs from Co-Existing Comfortably

By Charean Williams

Jim Harbaugh posted a 44–19–1 record in four years in San Francisco, never had a losing record and took the 49ers to the NFC Championship Game three times. John Fox went 46–18 in four years in Denver, never had a losing record and took the Broncos to a Super Bowl. Yet, when Harbaugh and Fox parted ways with their teams after last season, the NFL reacted with a collective yawn.

"I've seen it too many times," Hall of Fame general manager Bill Polian says. "Who knows why these things change. There's always internal dynamics that you can't really put your finger on. That's the way it looks. But it's been done before, and I'm sure it'll be done again."

Harbaugh and Trent Baalke went through a messy divorce, with the coach claiming it was not nearly as mutual as the general manager depicted. Philosophical differences sent Harbaugh to the University of Michigan, leading to the 49ers' elevation of little-known assistant Jim Tomsula to head coach.

Fox became the first Broncos coach in 30 years not to have final say in all football matters. And he and general manager John Elway eventually reached a point where they agreed to disagree, parting ways when the Broncos failed to get over the hump in three years with Peyton Manning as their quarterback. Fox moved on to Chicago, and Elway hired good buddy Gary Kubiak as the Broncos' new head coach.

"In any relationship, whether it be player-coach, coach-GM, you're always going to have bumpy patches," Elway said at the press conference announcing Fox's departure. "I think the main thing between John and I was we disagreed on how to get to the next level. We accomplished so much, four AFC West championships. But I think the biggest miss between us was how we can take that next step and what it was going to take to get to that next step. I think that's where the disagreement came from."

Why can't they all just get along?

More than 21 years have passed since Jerry Jones and Jimmy Johnson parted ways. Yet, they continue to play tug-of-war over credit for the back-to-back Lombardi Trophies the Cowboys won with them. Their five-year relationship ended after a public feud, with Johnson claiming his "girlfriend knows more about football" than Jones, and Jones countering that "any one of 500 coaches could have won those Super Bowls."

Johnson walked away with a $2 million payoff, and Jones' Cowboys won another Super Bowl two years later with Barry Switzer as the coach. They haven't won one since.

JIM HARBAUGH

The coach Johnson succeeded in Dallas, Tom Landry, lasted 29 years with president/general manager Tex Schramm. Former Bears general manager Jerry Angelo says his research revealed that the Landry-Schramm union stands as the only one in the modern era to last its whole tenure.

"Nobody was jealous of who got the credit," says Gil Brandt, player personnel director for Dallas from 1960-89. "We got along even though we didn't always agree. The funny thing is we all lived within a mile of one another. But I'll say this: It was just a lot easier then than it is now with the salary cap and everything else that goes into it."

The ugly divorces have become far more common than the long marriages. The Chargers fired Marty Schottenheimer after a 14–2 season and a one-and-done playoff exit in 2006, citing a "dysfunctional situation" between the coach and general manager A.J. Smith.

Sometimes the coach loses the battle; other times it's the general manager who goes. The Titans fired Floyd Reese after the 2006 season to end a power struggle between the general manager and coach Jeff Fisher.

Fisher worked with general managers Reese and Mike Reinfeldt and president/CEO Jeff Diamond during his 16 seasons in Houston/Tennessee. He enters his fourth season with Les Snead as his general manager in St. Louis.

"It takes a lot of work. It takes a lot of trust," Fisher says. "Communication is important. The responsibilities are so different. You have to share those responsibilities and respect those responsibilities. It starts from Day 1. There are going to be issues and disagreements."

One of Bill Parcells' most memorable lines came during his departure from the Patriots after the 1996 season when he said, "If they want you to cook the dinner, at least they ought to let you shop for some of the groceries."

Yet, Parcells' Super Bowl titles came with George Young as his general manager.

Mike Holmgren, seeking more power, left Green Bay after the 1998 season despite going 75–37 with two Super Bowl appearances and a Vince Lombardi Trophy. With Ron Wolf having final say concerning personnel, Holmgren went to Seattle for the dual role. Yet, Holmgren ended up being stripped of his general manager title in Seattle, going 86–74 with one NFC title in his tenure as head coach.

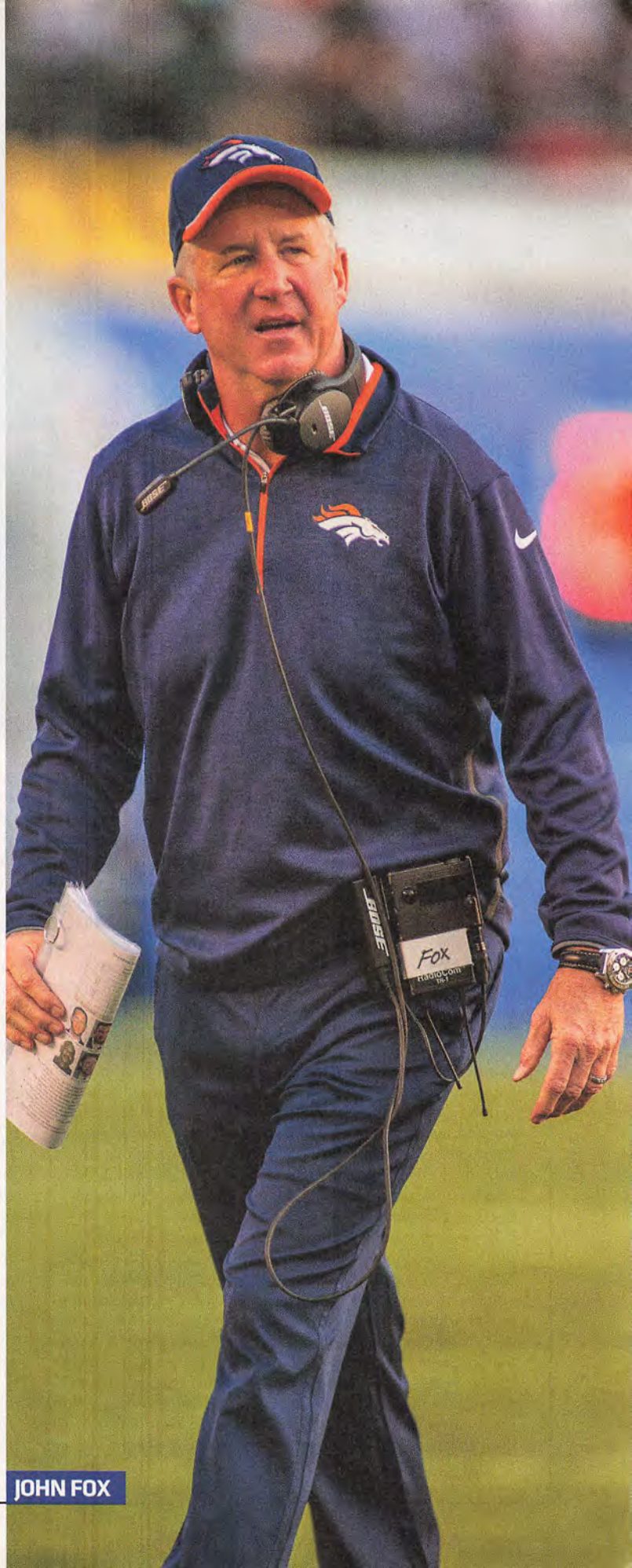
It's the reason few owners allow the coach to have control over all football decisions.

Bill Belichick, of course, wields the power in New England, with those around him understanding their roles. Nick Caserio, Belichick's trusted right-hand man, recently signed a contract extension with the team through the 2020 season. Caserio enters his 15th season with the organization, including his eighth as the director of player personnel, apparently comfortable with Belichick getting most of the credit.

The Eagles became a coach-driven franchise this offseason when they gave coach Chip Kelly all-encompassing power. Howie Roseman lost his title of general manager, which included authority over the draft.

The Cowboys have operated the other way since Johnson left in 1994, with owner Jones also carrying the GM title and having final say. But most organizations split the duties between the general manager and the coach.

"I've never wanted the GM to have the authority to hire the coach," Texans owner Bob McNair says. "I think that puts too much power in the hands of the GM. That's still my responsibility. The GM and coach have to appreciate each other's responsibility. They have to understand how we operate, and that they've got to get along with each other and respect each other and listen to each other."



JOHN FOX

Peter Brouillet

The poster boys for a successful yet ultimately dysfunctional GM-coach pairing: Jerry Jones and Jimmy Johnson.

Breakups aren't always over power. Sometimes, like in Dallas with Jones and Johnson, it comes down to credit.

"Ego," says Angelo, who spent 11 seasons as the Bears' general manager. "That's what it is. It comes down to ego. Who's getting the credit? The funny thing is, there is so much credit to go around when you're winning. Everybody is getting the credit. But somebody always thinks they are getting the short straw. That's unfortunate, because great teams, great organizations win it. It's not a great coach or a great player or a great owner or a great general manager. It's a combination of all those things. When one feels like he should be treated more special than the others, that's when we have a problem."

The friction between Jon Gruden and Rich McKay began almost the moment the Buccaneers acquired the coach in a trade with the Raiders. The Bucs won a Super Bowl in their only full season together, but Gruden ripped McKay's personnel decisions and deactivated receiver Keyshawn Johnson. It led to a split in the middle of the 2003 season, with McKay leaving for a division rival, the Falcons, where he remains as their president/CEO.

Both Gruden and McKay continue to take the high road in discussing the fallout.

"It's as simple as one word — trust," McKay says. "I don't think you need to go too far beyond that word. If you trust each other and your agendas are the same — and they're always the same — then you have a great opportunity for success. As soon as it becomes clear to one of them, whether real or not, that there are different agendas, they can't necessarily trust them in the way their message is being conveyed to some other party — whether it's the media, another coach or whoever that may be — then you've got a problem. Trust has to be built. The way trust is built up is you work together, and you make concessions together. You don't go in and say, 'We've got to have this defensive end.' You go in and say, 'We want this defensive end. This is why I like him. This is the case for him.' Then, when I give you a counter-case, you've got to take that into account, and you have to reach a joint decision. Trust will go away if one or the two of you decides to become the unilateral decider of fact."

Sometimes the general manager and coach have different outlooks. Coaches, who generally don't last long with one team, have a goal of winning now. They rarely are promised next year. General managers, who often have longer leashes, might look more toward the future. They build with a long-term plan in mind.

"There are a lot of dynamics," Snead, the Rams' general manager, says. "...You're trying to come up with the best solution to a problem, so you talk through the different points of view. Often, it's the head coach going to his staff and the general manager going to his staff to get other points of view and trying to mesh those together to make the best decisions for the organization."

Most view the Steelers as the model organization. They have had only three head coaches since 1969, and since owner Dan Rooney gave up his general manager duties after the 1970 season, the Steelers have had only three general managers or de facto general managers.

Bill Walsh served as head coach/GM during his 10 years with the 49ers, winning three Super Bowls. In his book, *Building a Champion*, Walsh wrote of the relationship between general managers and coaches: "The advantage of having a coach and a general manager is obvious: You have two people with clearly defined responsibilities who can concentrate on their individual areas of expertise. There's certainly enough work for two men."

If the team wins, there's credit enough to go around, too.

"Everyone has to check their egos at the door," Chiefs coach Andy Reid says, "and they have to do what it takes to work together."

AP

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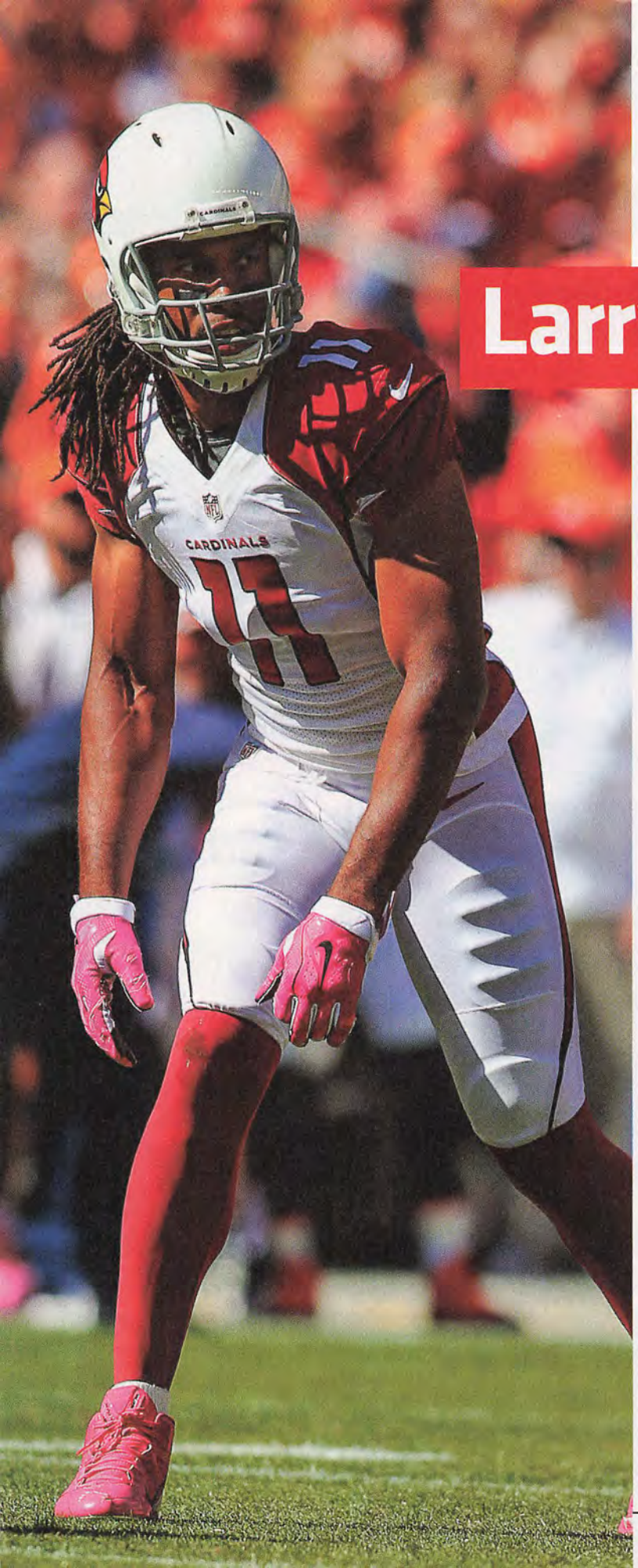


Q+A with Larry Fitzgerald

During the season, Larry Fitzgerald is one of the best wide receivers in the NFL, having racked up numbers that approach Hall-of-Fame level. In the offseason, he is a globe-trotting thrill-seeker, taking delight in adventures that could kill him. We caught up with him early one morning on a rare day that he wasn't hitting a golf ball off of a mountain, jumping out of an airplane or eating something that sounds totally disgusting.

What's your favorite stadium to play in?
In terms of the prestige and the history, I love Green Bay. When you play there, it feels like something special has occurred. In terms of the ruckus and the craziness, Seattle.

Would 10-year-old Larry Fitzgerald, growing up in Minnesota, believe that grown-up Larry Fitzgerald would say something nice about Green Bay?
I'm not saying anything nice about Green Bay. Nothing. I don't say anything nice about anything that happens in Wisconsin besides the Wisconsin Dells and Erin Hills and Whistling Straits (highly rated golf courses). Besides that, there's nothing in Wisconsin that I really like.

Who is the toughest cornerback you've ever lined up against?
I've lined up against some really, really talented cornerbacks. The two that really pop out in my mind, when I was really young, they really gave me fits, were Aaron Glenn (a three-time Pro Bowler who played from 1994-2008) and Ty Law (a five-time Pro Bowler who played from 1995-2009). Both of them were savvy old veterans. I felt like they knew my route before I was even running it. But I was only 20 years old, too.

Who is the funniest DB you've played against?
Sam Madison (a four-time Pro Bowler who played from 1997 until 2008). He had this real high-pitched voice when he was talking to you (adopts falsetto voice) — "You ain't going to get off on me!" And he was talking nonstop, too.

Was he a guy who had read your bio and would pick on you for something specific?
Oh, yeah. He was very smart in terms of preparation for guys. He definitely knew the competition. He knew what was going to bother you, and he was going to take any competitive advantage he could get.

Let's say I have a magic wand, and I can grant you one attribute from any wide receiver in NFL history – Jerry Rice's work ethic, Megatron's size, Odell Beckham Jr.'s hands, whatever. What would you take?
I love (Baltimore Ravens wide receiver) Steve Smith's competitive fire. His spirit is just tenacious.

Who among the quarterbacks you have caught passes from throws the most catchable ball?
Oh, man. I hate comparing quarterbacks. But there's a reason Kurt Warner is going into the Hall of Fame in the next few years. Carson (Palmer) throws a very catchable ball as well.

Left: Tim Umphrey; Right: AP

I watched him in training camp the year he was named starter in Cincinnati. I had to rub my eyes. I swear he was throwing the ball 80 yards in the air. Was I seeing things?

No. Carson can throw it. He can make every throw that you need a quarterback to make. But he makes them with nice touch, too. He delivers the deep ball, but it feels like he's throwing a 5-yard pass to you.

You have 909 catches, 89 touchdowns and 12,151 receiving yards. You were the youngest receiver to get to 700, 800 and 900 receptions. Do you have career goals in mind for catches, yards and touchdowns?

I think 1,000 catches is pretty much the standard for greatness. If you look around, not many guys have done it. 1,000 catches, 100 touchdowns, and I'd say 13,000, 14,000 yards. That would solidify that you had a really solid career.

The Cardinals had a great first part of the season last year. What's it going to take for you guys to stop Seattle's run in the NFC West?

We're not a team that really looks at anybody else. We try to just take care of our business and do whatever we can to make sure we're having success. Last year, we got hit with a rash of injuries that were just epic. They really hurt us. We were just worn down by the end of the year. We're going to have guys back healthy.

How glad are you that you don't have to play against cornerback Patrick Peterson and free safety Tyrann Mathieu?

I line up against those guys more than I line up against anybody. Playing against them every day gets us ready. It might have actually given our receivers a competitive advantage.

You have two million Twitter followers (his Twitter handle is @LarryFitzgerald). You tweeted the other day, "My heart goes out to those in pain in Baltimore. Let's stop the violence and start the conversation #PeaceInBaltimore" Do you feel a responsibility as an athlete to use your platform to engage in social issues?

No, not at all. That's just my personal feeling on it. I comment here and there on things, let you know how I feel. I don't think I have a responsibility at all to do that. If I had one follower, I would have sent the same message.

What do you hope to accomplish with the Larry Fitzgerald First Down Fund?

I just want to be able to impact my community. There are so many people who are in need. God has blessed me with great opportunities to help people who are in need. I feel as though it's my responsibility — and it's the way I was raised — to try to help people who are in need.

Why do you travel the world?

It gives me great perspective. I really enjoy learning. There's no better way for me to learn than through experience. There's a quote that I read, I'm not sure who said it, but they said, "Travel is the only thing you can buy that actually makes you rich." This year, I went to Russia. It was right after one of their politicians was killed. Russian media was talking about how unsafe it was in Moscow, as a warning to Americans. I was over there with Andrei Kirilenko, who played basketball for many years in the NBA. He hosted me for my journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow. I couldn't have been more safe or enjoyed the experience more. I had a private tour of the Kremlin, walked around Red Square and saw all the World War II military buildings there. I like to see what the world has to offer. I just like to venture out.

Do you eat the local food when you go?

Oh, yeah. I'll try anything once. The only things that are a little dicey for me are some Asian dishes. Everywhere else, I'm pretty good.

What's the strangest-sounding thing to an American that you've eaten?

Monkey brains was definitely high up there on the list of really nasty things. I had snake blood, too. That was really interesting. I would never try it again.

What do monkey brains taste like?

You're so blown away that you're actually eating it that I can't recall what the taste was.

You played the longest par 3 in the world. It looked monstrous. Describe that.

I was at the Legends course in South Africa. They have a really nice course. They have a 19th hole that you have to take a helicopter up to get there and then back down to the green. It was a tough hole. My boy Andre Roberts (a former Cardinals wide receiver now with the Redskins) made a five on it. If the wind is into you, you don't have a chance of getting it there. I hit a really good drive, and I was still short. It's one of those things you read about and you just have to try it. Me being an avid golfer, it was definitely on my bucket list.

How long was it?

You're about 1,400 feet above the ground. The actual hole is 391 yards. It's a 22-second hang time — so from the time you hit the ball off the face of the club until it hits the green, it's 22 seconds in the air. You can imagine, if the wind is blowing into you, it's going to be really hard to get there. I can't tell you what I made on it because it's really embarrassing.

I will not grill you on that then.

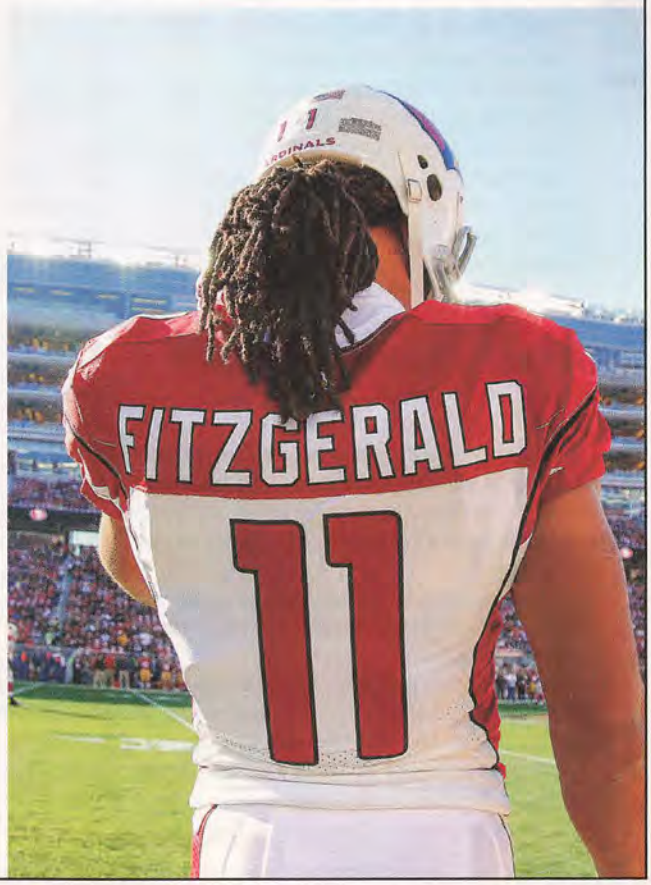
Thank you.

Are you an adrenaline junkie?

I wouldn't say I'm an adrenaline junkie, but I'm not scared to do anything. I'm one of those people where if it's fun and it's exciting, I'm down for it. I'm kind of weird in my thinking: If it's something that will kill me immediately, I will do it for sure — bungee jumping, skydiving, all of those type of things. Something that will potentially just hurt me, and maybe shorten my NFL career, I won't do it. For instance, riding a motorcycle. Or cliff diving — I've done it before, but it hurts your feet. I would hate to break my foot doing something like that. But if it'll kill me immediately, I don't mind it.

Before you go do something like that, do you text the GM to warn him, or does he say, 'Man, I'd rather not know?'

They know I'm a junkie for that stuff. It's in my contract to do that stuff. It would be the least of my concerns if I was skydiving and my parachute didn't open. It's not like I'm going to be able to help Arizona Cardinals after that anyway.



NFL COACHING CAROUSEL

by John Gworek

CHICAGO BEARS – JOHN FOX

Previous Job: Head coach, Denver Broncos

Pros: It's not often that you get the opportunity to hire a coach who has taken two franchises to the Super Bowl. In 2002, Fox took over a 1–15 Panthers team that had the league's 31st-ranked defense and had them in the Super Bowl in two seasons. He took over the Broncos and the league's 32nd-ranked defense in 2011 coming off of a 4–12 season and had them in the Super Bowl in three seasons. Now he takes over the Bears and the league's 30th-ranked defense ... for some reason, this seems like a good fit.

Cons: Fox and the Broncos mutually parted ways. Fox's vision seemed to differ from that of team president John Elway, as Fox aimed for more balance on offense last season. So perhaps at this stage of his career, Fox isn't so concerned with playing nice with those around him.

Final Analysis: This is a good fit. Fox has proven that he's a quick fixer for struggling defenses, and while quarterback Jay Cutler is no Peyton Manning, there are pieces in place on offense. He may not win right away, but as the hand-picked coach of a new GM (Ryan Pace), Fox can take a couple years and build the team he wants.

ATLANTA FALCONS – DAN QUINN

Previous Job: Defensive coordinator, Seattle Seahawks

Pros: Quinn arrives after running the NFL's top defense each of the last two seasons in Seattle — exactly what the Falcons need after finishing dead last in defense in 2014 and tied for 27th in 2013. Quinn is known for effective game plans (see Super Bowl XLVIII vs. Peyton Manning) and finding the best way to use whatever players he has; good thing, because the Falcons don't have enough defensive talent to get by on talent alone.

Cons: Quinn has never been a head coach. Also, the Falcons were forced to wait until after the Super Bowl to hire him, which may have hindered his ability to put together the best possible staff.

Final Analysis: This was perhaps the most coveted open job, because Atlanta has a franchise quarterback already in place in Matt Ryan. For a first-time head coach like Quinn, that's huge, and he caught another break when respected offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan parted ways with Cleveland. This is no long rebuild; expectations will be high for Quinn to fix the defense and win fast.

BUFFALO BILLS – REX RYAN

Previous Job: Head coach, New York Jets

Pros: The fact that a big name like Ryan was willing to take the job brings some credibility to a franchise that has missed the playoffs 15 straight seasons. The Bills want to win now, and hiring Ryan allows the team to play to its strength, specifically a defense that ranked fourth in the NFL in 2014. And Ryan has done it before, taking the Jets to two AFC title games with mediocre offenses.

Cons: Ryan went 26–38 his last four seasons in New York, and there is no evidence that he can improve the offense. The quarterback situation is among the worst in the league. No matter how much of a defensive genius Ryan is, he will have a hard time winning at a high level without some help from the offense.

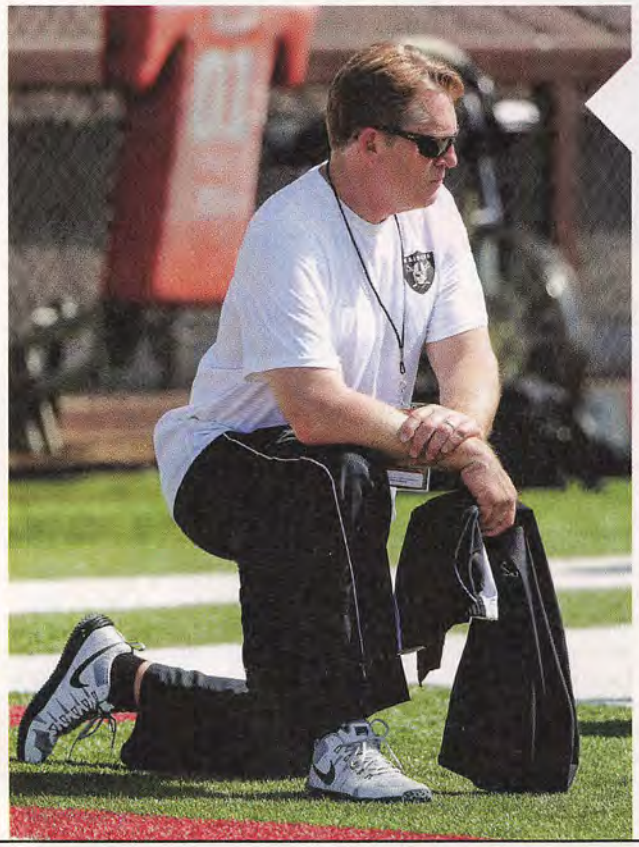
Final Analysis: Ryan arrives talking a good game, and there is every reason to believe that the Bills defense will again be dominant in 2015. The Bills also added playmakers on offense in LeSean McCoy and Percy Harvin. Quarterback is the elephant in the room, but there will be no honeymoon period. Ryan will be expected to win now.

AP

DENVER BRONCOS – GARY KUBIAK

Previous Job: Offensive coordinator, Baltimore Ravens

Pros: Kubiak returns to the only place he ever played, and the place where he served 11 seasons as offensive coordinator (1995-2005). There's little chance of him clashing with old friend John Elway, as John Fox apparently did at the end. And while he never won big in Houston, Kubiak had the expansion franchise competitive almost from the get-go and twice led the Texans to the playoffs. With Peyton Manning nearing the end, this was no time for a coach who had to learn on the job. Bringing defensive coordinator Wade Phillips along is huge: Houston's defenses ranked in the league's bottom third without Phillips; after Kubiak hired Phillips, the Texans' D ranked in the top 10 from 2011-13.



Cons: Kubiak's system — in which play-action is a big part of the passing game — doesn't exactly match with Manning standing in the shotgun, calling his own plays and getting the ball out quickly.

Final Analysis: The Broncos are not rebuilding — this is a Super-Bowl-or-bust team as long as Manning is around, so everyone needs to be pulling in the same direction. At the end of 2014, with coordinators angling for head coaching jobs (and Fox possibly already eyeing the Bears job), that wasn't happening. The window may be closing, but this gives the Broncos a chance to still sneak through it.

NEW YORK JETS – TODD BOWLES

Previous Job: Defensive coordinator, Arizona Cardinals

Pros: At the end of the Rex Ryan era in New York, no one was on the same page. The GM hadn't hired the coach but had drafted the quarterback with whom no one was happy. With new GM Mike Maccagnan picking Bowles as his guy, at least the Jets can start moving in the same direction. And Bowles didn't arrive making Super Bowl predictions; after a few years of Ryan's act, someone a little more low-key might be a welcome change.

Cons: Bowles has been coaching in the NFL since 2000 and even went 2–1 as Miami's interim head coach in 2011, but before the last two seasons in Arizona, he never even had his own defense to run. It's a big jump from that to being the face of the franchise in the Big Apple.

Final Analysis: Bowles was in the mix for other jobs, and he's obviously respected in the NFL. But unlike some of the guys on this list, he is not expected to win right away. The Jets cleaned house. Bowles and Maccagnan will have some time to rebuild the team in their image. Then again, it's still New York; the honeymoon won't last long.

OAKLAND RAIDERS – JACK DEL RIO

Previous Job: Defensive coordinator, Denver Broncos

Pros: Not counting interim coach Tony Sparano, the last four men to land the Raiders' top job were first-time head coaches. Compared to the likes of Lane Kiffin and Tom Cable, Del Rio is an accomplished head coach. He guided the Jaguars to the playoffs twice and had only one losing season in his first five years in Jacksonville.

Cons: For a guy who lasted almost nine full seasons at one job, Del Rio was not known for breeding stability. He fired 19 assistant coaches during his time in Jacksonville and earned a reputation for throwing players under the bus. His choices for coordinators also have done little to excite: In six seasons as an NFL offensive coordinator, Bill Musgrave has never led a unit that finished higher than 13th in yards or 14th in points per game. Then again, at least he has a track record. Ken Norton Jr. has never been a defensive coordinator before.

Final Analysis: Del Rio certainly has his detractors, but the Raiders did well to hire someone who has been around the block and enjoyed a little success as a head coach. But he has his work cut out for him, inheriting a team that finished last in total offense and gave up the most points in the league.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS – JIM TOMSULA

Previous Job: Defensive line coach, San Francisco 49ers

Pros: Tomsula was defensive line coach under the departed Jim Harbaugh, so he provides some familiarity and continuity. That's no small thing for a team that is one 8–8 season removed from three straight trips to the NFC title game and one Super Bowl run. General manager Trent Baalke built those teams but clashed with Harbaugh, so it was important — to him at least — to hire a coach who was not looking for total control.

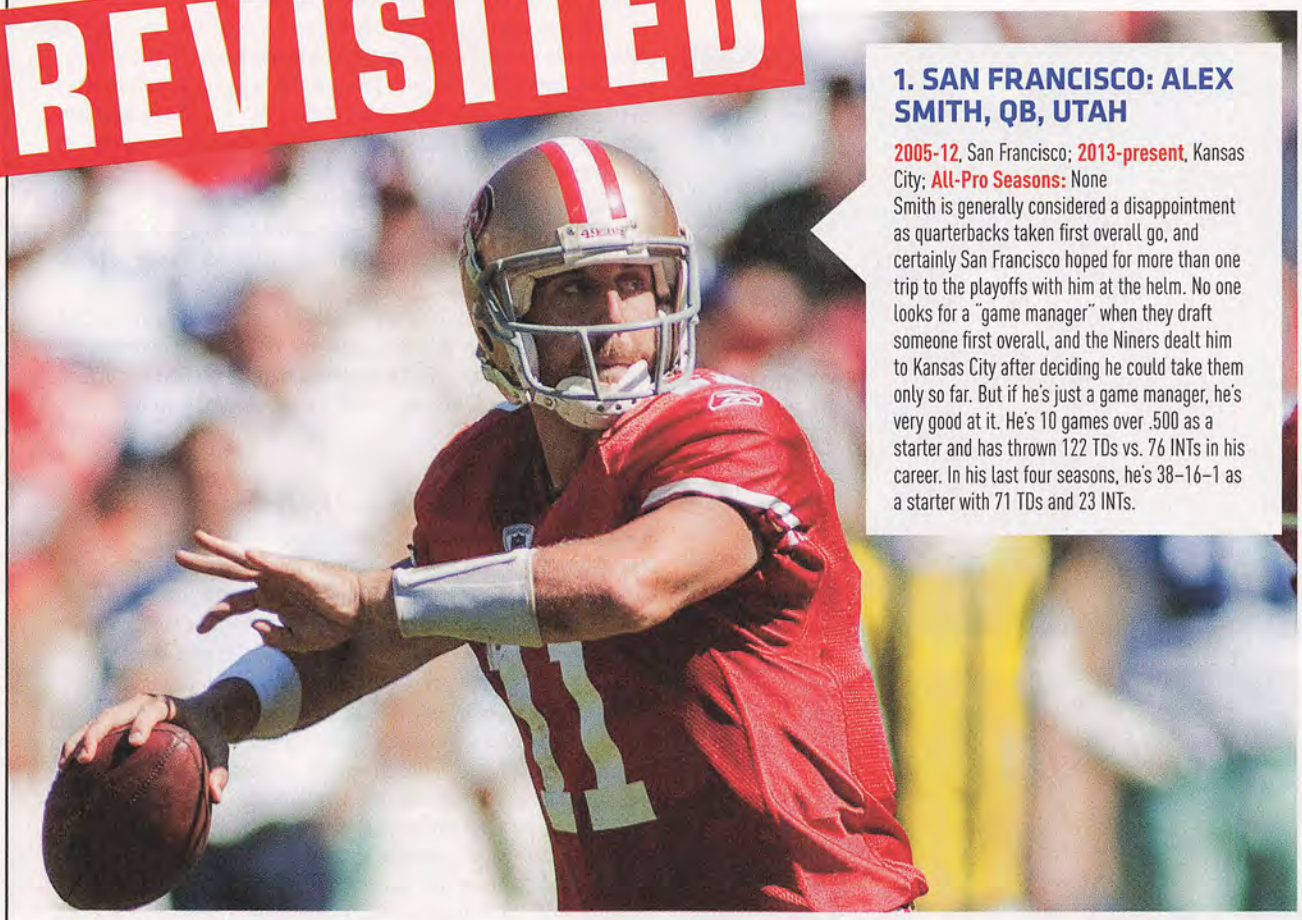
Cons: Tomsula has one game of NFL head coaching experience, the 2010 finale after Mike Singletary was fired. He's never been an NFL coordinator. How much continuity does Tomsula really bring given that most of Harbaugh's staff is no longer around?

Final Analysis: Was 2014 just a speed bump? If the rest of the operation is so strong that it can withstand some first-time-head-coach growing pains, Tomsula may work out just fine. But if 2014 was the beginning of a downward cycle — as many believe — it's unlikely Tomsula will be the guy leading the eventual rebuild.

2005 DRAFT REVISITED

Four members of the undefeated 2004 Auburn Tigers team highlighted a first round that yielded mixed results – at best – over the long term

by John Gworek



1. SAN FRANCISCO: ALEX SMITH, QB, UTAH

2005-12, San Francisco; **2013-present**, Kansas City; **All-Pro Seasons:** None

Smith is generally considered a disappointment as quarterbacks taken first overall go, and certainly San Francisco hoped for more than one trip to the playoffs with him at the helm. No one looks for a "game manager" when they draft someone first overall, and the Niners dealt him to Kansas City after deciding he could take them only so far. But if he's just a game manager, he's very good at it. He's 10 games over .500 as a starter and has thrown 122 TDs vs. 76 INTs in his career. In his last four seasons, he's 38–16–1 as a starter with 71 TDs and 23 INTs.

2. MIAMI: RONNIE BROWN, RB, AUBURN

2005-10, Miami; **2011**, Philadelphia; **2012-14**, San Diego; **2014**, Houston

All-Pro Seasons: None

Ten years later, it's hard to believe that three running backs came off the board in the first five picks in 2005. Brown was the first, and he looked like the complete package coming out of Auburn. After averaging about 1,200 yards from scrimmage in his first two seasons, Brown was leading the league in that department in 2007 when he blew out his knee making a tackle on an interception return. While he made a Pro Bowl after rushing for 916 yards and 10 touchdowns in 2008, Brown was never again a feature back. He has started just three games since 2010, and his career may be over after he carried just 20 times in 10 games with San Diego and Houston in 2014.

3. CLEVELAND: BRAYLON EDWARDS, WR, MICHIGAN

2005-09, Cleveland; **2009-10**, N.Y. Jets; **2011**, San Francisco; **2012**, N.Y. Jets; **2012**, Seattle

All-Pro Seasons: None

Much like Brown, Edwards seemed to be developing nicely when he made the Pro Bowl in his third season thanks to 1,289 yards and 16 touchdowns (both franchise records) on 80 catches. But it was all downhill from there for Edwards, who kept finding himself in off-field trouble with the Browns. Four games into the 2009 season, he was traded to the Jets two days after allegedly punching a man in a nightclub. In 2010, his one full season with the Jets, Edwards had 53 catches for 904 yards and seven touchdowns. In 2011-12, he bounced from the 49ers to the Seahawks and back to the Jets, but he caught just 33 passes in 22 games along the way. He hasn't played in the NFL since.

4. CHICAGO: CEDRIC BENSON, RB, TEXAS

2005-07, Chicago; **2008-11**, Cincinnati; **2012**, Green Bay; **All-Pro Seasons:** None

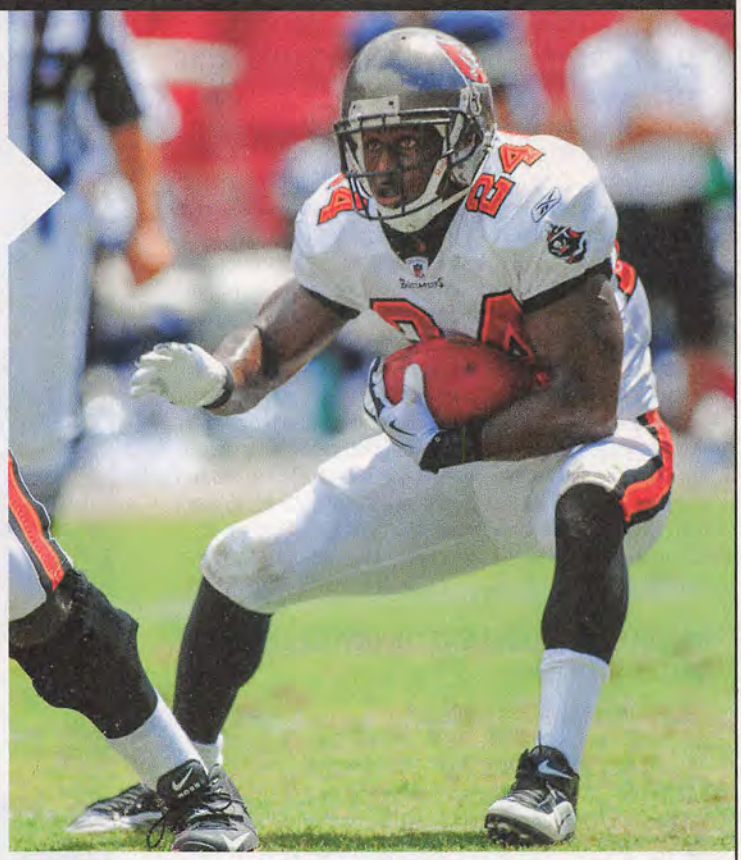
Benson got off to a rough start in Chicago as he didn't sign a contract until he had missed all of training camp, and he found himself stuck behind Thomas Jones for two seasons as a result. When he finally got the starting job in 2007, his season was cut short by an ankle injury, and he was released before the 2008 season. Benson found success in Cincinnati, rushing for 4,176 yards and scoring 22 TDs over the next four seasons, including three straight 1,000-yard seasons. But he was high-maintenance, and the Bengals tired of his pouting when the ball wasn't coming his way. After signing with Green Bay in 2012, Benson played just five games before suffering what turned out to be a career-ending foot injury.

Smith: Peter Brouillet; Williams: Mark Langello; Williamson: Brian Ebner

5. TAMPA BAY: CADILLAC WILLIAMS, RB, AUBURN

2005-10, Tampa Bay; **2011**, St. Louis; **All-Pro Seasons:** None

Williams got off to a slightly faster start than his fellow backs picked in the top five, but his career came to a similar end. After rushing for nearly 1,200 yards and six touchdowns in 14 games as a rookie, Williams never again averaged 4.0 yards per carry for the Bucs and missed 26 games in his first four seasons due to injury. While he finally played in every game for Tampa Bay in 2009-10, his rushing totals in those seasons combined barely matched his rookie season. He moved on to St. Louis, gaining 361 yards in 12 games in 2011 before calling it a career.



6. TENNESSEE: ADAM JONES, CB, WEST VIRGINIA

2005-06, Tennessee; **2008**, Dallas; **2010-present**, Cincinnati
All-Pro Seasons: 1 (2014, as a kick returner)

Jones arrived with all kinds of off-the-field red flags, and he justified all the concern early in his career. After a breakout season that featured three punt returns for touchdowns in 2006, Jones was suspended by the NFL for the 2007 season for violation of the league's personal conduct policy. He signed with the Dallas Cowboys in 2008 but appeared in only nine games before spending 2009 with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the CFL. He returned to the NFL in 2010 in Cincinnati, and he's been with the Bengals ever since. After two injury-riddled seasons, Jones has played in every game since 2012 and was an All-Pro kick returner in 2014.

7. MINNESOTA: TROY WILLIAMSON, WR, SOUTH CAROLINA

2005-07, Minnesota; **2008-09**, Jacksonville; **All-Pro Seasons:** None

Williamson was a surprising choice at this point because he was never a truly dominant receiver in college at South Carolina. He did have a nice senior season, averaging nearly 20 yards per catch on 43 receptions, but this was the pick the Vikings got from the Raiders for Randy Moss. That alone put pressure on Williamson to produce. It never happened. In three seasons, Williamson started 22 games, catching 79 passes for 1,067 yards and three touchdowns. He was traded to Jacksonville for a sixth-round pick, and was out of football two years later.

8. ARIZONA: ANTREL ROLLE, DB, MIAMI (FLA.)

2005-09, Arizona; **2010-14**, N.Y. Giants; **All-Pro Seasons:** None

Finally, eight picks in, we get to a player who panned out as one might expect. Rolle's rookie season was cut short by a knee injury, but he's played 143 of 144 games since. He moved from corner to safety and made the Pro Bowl in 2009, only to be released by Arizona after the season for financial reasons. He landed on his feet with the Giants, making two more Pro Bowls in his five seasons and helping them win Super Bowl XLVI. His contract expired after the 2014 season, and Rolle signed with the Bears in free agency.

9. WASHINGTON: CARLOS ROGERS, DB, AUBURN

2005-10, Washington; **2011-13**, San Francisco; **2014**, Oakland
All-Pro Seasons: None

The third Auburn Tiger taken among the first nine picks, Rogers has had a solid if unspectacular career. After starting 68 of 78 games in six years with Washington, he signed with San Francisco in 2011 and promptly made the Pro Bowl, picking off a career-high six passes and helping the 49ers advance to the NFC title game. All told, he started all 48 games he played for the Niners in three seasons as they went 36–11–1, losing the NFC title game twice and the Super Bowl once. Rogers signed a one-year deal with the Raiders in 2014 but played only seven games due to injury.

10. DETROIT: MIKE WILLIAMS, WR, USC

2005-06, Detroit; **2007**, Tennessee; **2007**, Oakland; **2010-11**, Seattle; **All-Pro Seasons:** None

Williams put up video game numbers in two seasons at USC (176 rec., 2,579 yards, 30 TDs), but after that it was one disappointment after another. He declared for the 2004 Draft as a true sophomore after a judge ruled the NFL couldn't stop Ohio State's Maurice Clarett from doing the same. Williams went so far as to hire an agent, which made him ineligible to return to USC when a higher court overturned the decision. So he had to sit out a whole season waiting for the 2005 Draft. Despite posting huge numbers in college, there were questions about him right away, as his weight and 40 time were closer to those of a tight end. Then he got picked by the Lions, who had taken receivers (Charles Rogers, Roy Williams) in the first round of the previous two drafts. Unfortunately, Williams did nothing to prove the Lions did the right thing. He caught 37 passes in two seasons before splitting 2007 between Tennessee and Oakland. After two years out of the NFL, he had his best season with Seattle in 2010 (65 rec., 751 yards), but he's been out of the league since struggling in 2011. In the end, his USC numbers dwarfed his NFL career numbers (127 rec., 1,526 yards, five TDs in 56 games).

11. DALLAS: DEMARCUS WARE, DE/LB, TROY

2005-13, Dallas; **2014-present**, Denver
All-Pro Seasons: 4 (2007, '08, '09, '11)

Ware is the most decorated player in this first round (eight Pro Bowls, four-time All-Pro) and has been remarkably durable and consistent. In 10 seasons (nine with Dallas, one with Denver), he's missed only three games, starting 155 of 157. He led the NFL in sacks twice (2008 and 2010) and failed to reach double-digits in sacks only once since his rookie season. Heading into 2015, he ranks third among active players with 127.0 sacks (Jared Allen, 134.0; John Abraham, 133.5).

12. SAN DIEGO: SHAWNE MERRIMAN, LB, MARYLAND

2005-10, San Diego; **2010-12**, Buffalo; **All-Pro Seasons:** 1 (2006)

Merriman burst onto the NFL scene quickly, making the Pro Bowl and earning Defensive Rookie of the Year honors with 10 sacks in 2005. In 2006, he was suspended for four games for violating the league's performance-enhancing drug policy, but he still led the league with 17 sacks in 12 games. He made his third Pro Bowl in a row with 12.5 sacks in 2007, but it was all downhill from there. In 2008, he couldn't shake a preseason knee injury and had season-ending surgery after the opener. He returned to play 14 games in 2009 but registered only four sacks. He was cut after three games in 2010 and signed with Buffalo, only to injure his Achilles in his first practice and miss the rest of the season. The injury nagged him for two more seasons, and he recorded just 2.0 sacks in 15 games with the Bills in 2011-12. He's been out of the league since.

13. NEW ORLEANS: JAMMAL BROWN, OT, OKLAHOMA

2005-08, New Orleans; **2010-12**, Washington; **All-Pro Seasons:** 1 (2006)

Brown won the Outland Trophy as the nation's top lineman and was a unanimous All-American for Oklahoma in 2004, as he helped pave the way for Adrian Peterson's huge freshman season. The Saints made him the highest selection for an OU offensive linemen since 1950, and he rewarded them with an All-Pro season in 2006 and another Pro Bowl in 2008. He missed the 2009 season with a torn ACL and was traded to Washington before the 2010 season. He started 26 of 28 games over the next two seasons before a hip injury sidelined him for the 2012 season. He never played in the NFL again.

14. CAROLINA: THOMAS DAVIS, LB, GEORGIA

2005-present, Carolina; **All-Pro Seasons:** None

Davis has never made a Pro Bowl let alone been an All-Pro, but he might be the best story of the 2005 Draft. After playing safety at Georgia and mostly on special teams as a rookie, Davis started 46 games at linebacker for the Panthers from 2006-08. Then he tore the ACL in his right knee three times in the next three years, appearing in only nine games from 2009-11. Incredibly, Davis returned in 2012 and had perhaps his two best seasons in 2013-14, recording 240 tackles and 6.5 sacks. After the 2014 season, he was named the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year.

15. KANSAS CITY: DERRICK JOHNSON, LB, TEXAS

2005-present, Kansas City; **All-Pro Seasons:** 1 (2011)

After playing all but six games as a solid starter in his first six seasons, Johnson saw his star rise in 2011. He was named to his first Pro Bowl and was first-team All-Pro after racking up 131 tackles, 2.0 sacks and two interceptions. He followed that up with two more Pro Bowl seasons in 2012-13 and was primed for another when he went down in the 2014 opener against Tennessee. He missed the rest of the season with a torn Achilles.

Ware: Peter Brouillet; Johnson: Courtland W. Richards

16. HOUSTON: TRAVIS JOHNSON, DT, FLORIDA STATE

2005-08, Houston; **2009-10**, San Diego; **All-Pro Seasons:** None

Johnson had an underwhelming college career until his big senior season. He was named All-ACC after recording 2.5 sacks and 18 tackles for a loss and rose up draft boards. Alas, his early college career was a better indicator of what was to come. Bothered by injuries, Johnson started 37 games in four seasons with Houston before being traded to San Diego for a sixth-round pick before the 2009 season. He appeared in just 22 games for the Chargers before finishing his career with just three sacks in 76 games.

17. CINCINNATI: DAVID POLLACK, LB, GEORGIA

2005-06, Cincinnati; **All-Pro Seasons:** None

If Thomas Davis is the best story of this first round, Pollack is perhaps the most tragic from a football standpoint. He was the SEC Defensive Player of the Year in 2004 when he won the Bednarik Award, the Hendricks Award, the Lombardi Award and the Lott Trophy. Making the move from college defensive end to pro linebacker, he started five games as a rookie for the Bengals and recorded 4.5 sacks. He added another sack in the playoffs. In the second game of the 2006 season, Pollack broke a vertebra in his neck making a tackle and missed the remainder of the season. While he suffered no paralysis, the injury was career-ending. Pollack is now best known for his work as a college football analyst for ESPN.

18. MINNESOTA: ERASMUS JAMES, DE, WISCONSIN

2005-07, Minnesota; **2008**, Washington; **All-Pro Seasons:** None

After an All-Big Ten and All-America senior season for the Badgers, James got off to a promising start in Minnesota. He started nine of 15 games as a rookie, recording 28 tackles and 4.0 sacks, including two against Pittsburgh in December. But then he was hit by injuries and recorded just one sack in eight games over the next two seasons. He was traded to Washington in 2008 and played the final five games of his career that season for the Redskins, failing to make a tackle.

19. ST. LOUIS: ALEX BARRON, OT, FLORIDA STATE

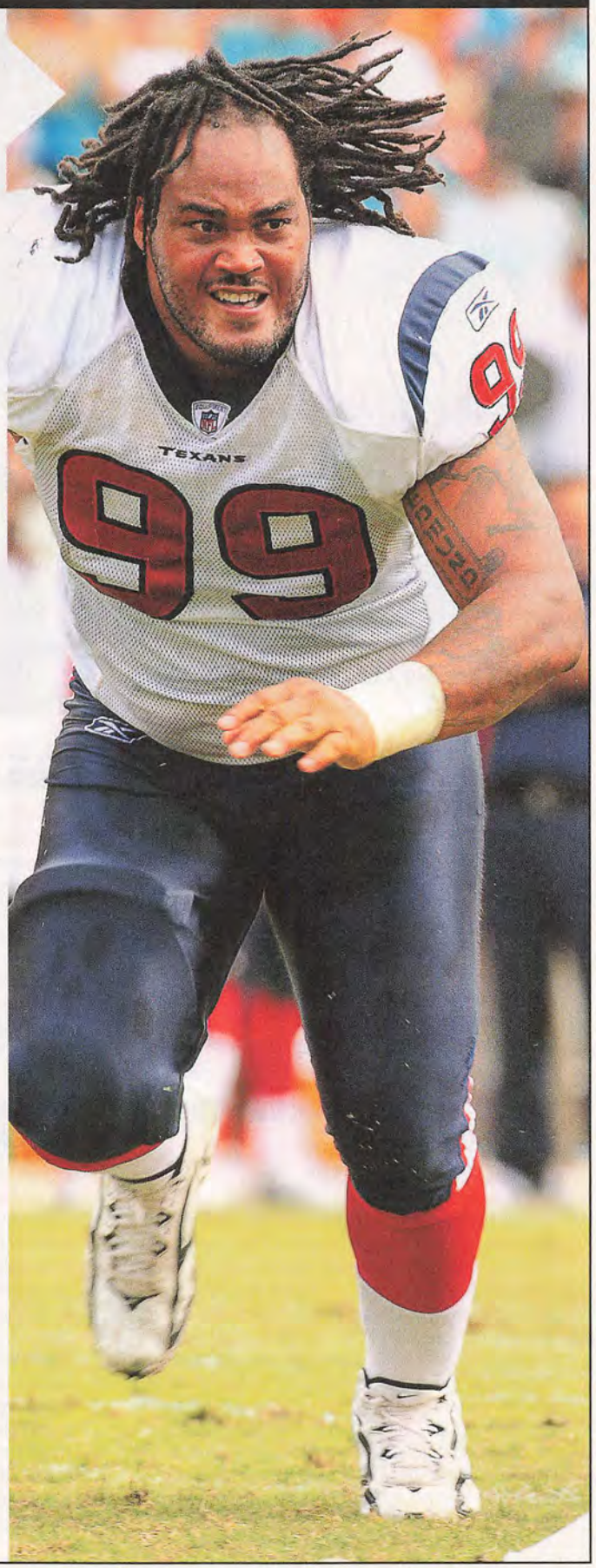
2005-09, St. Louis; **2010**, Dallas; **All-Pro Seasons:** None

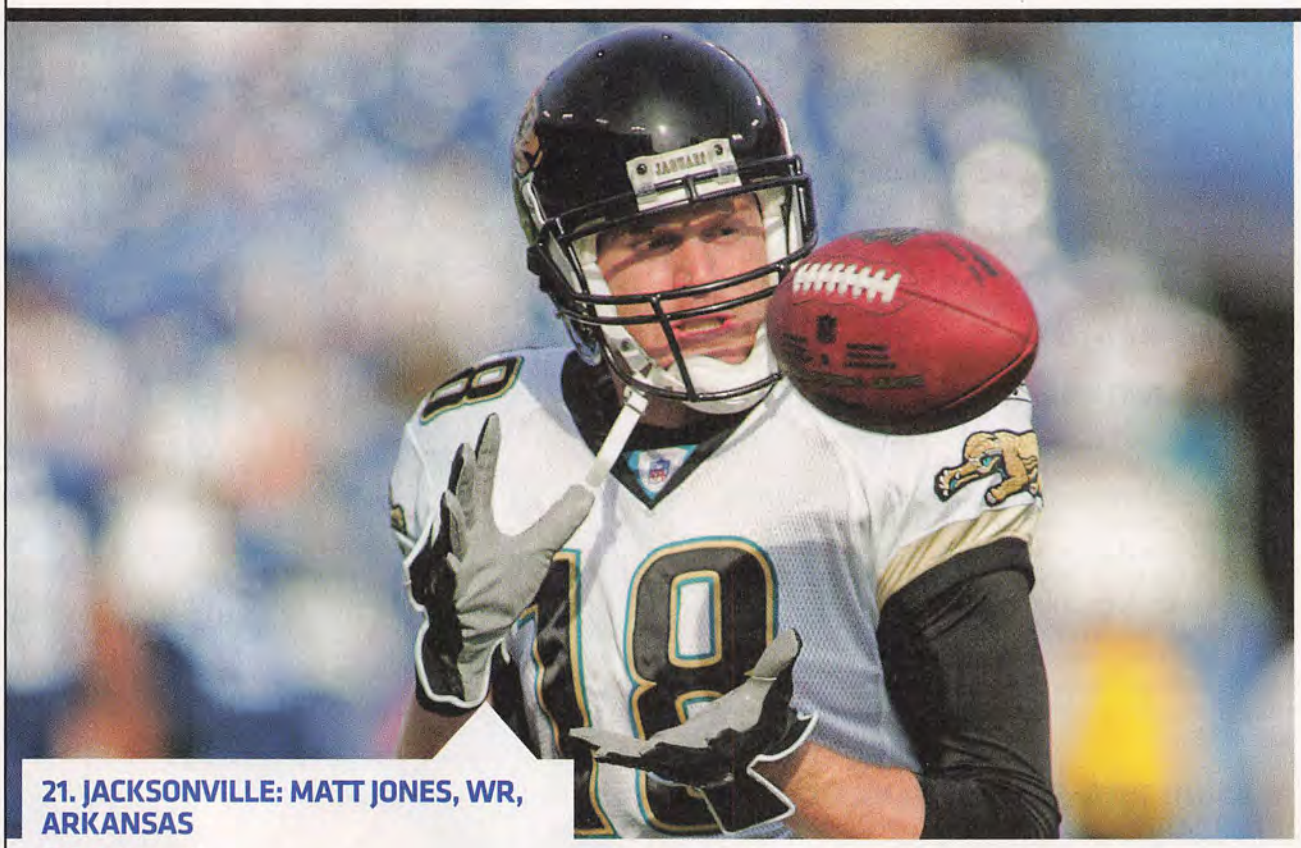
Barron arrived as a unanimous All-American and Outland Trophy finalist at Florida State, and he started 11 of the 12 games he played as a rookie. He started 63 of 64 games for the Rams over the next four seasons, but he developed a reputation as one of the most-penalized linemen in the league. He was traded to Dallas in 2010 and started the season opener for the Cowboys. But a holding penalty on him negated what would have been the game-winning touchdown on the game's final play, and he never started another game. Barron attempted comebacks with New Orleans, Seattle and Oakland over the next three seasons but never played again.

20. DALLAS: MARCUS SPEARS, DE, LSU

2005-12, Dallas; **2013**, Baltimore; **All-Pro Seasons:** None

Much was made of the fact that Bill Parcells wanted to take Spears with the No. 11 pick because he was a perfect fit for his 3-4 defense. Jerry Jones went with DeMarcus Ware, gambling that Spears would still be on the board at No. 20. Jones was right, but Parcells wasn't wrong about Spears being a good fit. He started 89 of 119 games over eight seasons with the Cowboys, but his role diminished as the team moved away from the 3-4 set and injuries took their toll. He signed with Baltimore before the 2013 season but was released after playing five games.





21. JACKSONVILLE: MATT JONES, WR, ARKANSAS

2005-08, Jacksonville
All-Pro Seasons: None

Jones was a successful dual-threat quarterback at Arkansas, throwing for 5,857 yards and 53 touchdowns and rushing for 2,535 yards and 24 more scores in his collegiate career. But when NFL teams saw his 4.3 speed to go with a 6'6", 240-pound frame, he shot up draft boards as a wide receiver prospect. Despite being new to the position, he caught 77 passes for 1,075 yards and nine touchdowns in his first two seasons. Jones slumped in 2007 and was arrested for cocaine possession before the 2008 season; yet he responded with his best year, catching 65 passes for 761 yards and two touchdowns. But after being jailed for violating his plea agreement from the cocaine arrest, he was released by the Jaguars in March 2009. He signed with Cincinnati but was released before the season and never played again in the NFL.

22. BALTIMORE: MARK CLAYTON, WR, OKLAHOMA

2005-09, Baltimore; **2010-11**, St. Louis
All-Pro Seasons: None

Clayton may have been taken higher had he declared for the draft after his monster 2003 season. After catching 83 passes for 1,425 yards and 15 TDs, helping quarterback Jason White win the Heisman Trophy, Clayton was not quite able to match those numbers in 2004 with 66 catches for 876 yards and eight touchdowns. Still, he had a promising rookie season in 2005 (44 rec., 471 yards) and led the Ravens in receiving yards in 2006 as he clicked with quarterback Steve McNair, catching 67 passes for 939 yards and five touchdowns. Those numbers, however, turned out to be career highs, as McNair played just six games in 2007. Without McNair, Clayton never established himself as anything more than a third receiving option and was traded to the Rams right before the 2010 opener. He caught 23 passes that season in a reserve role, but he appeared in just two games in 2011. He officially retired in 2013.

23. OAKLAND: FABIAN WASHINGTON, DB, NEBRASKA

2005-07, Oakland; **2008-10**, Baltimore
All-Pro Seasons: None

Washington was a three-year starter at Nebraska but lacked the postseason honors racked up by some other prospects drafted in this first round. What he did have, however, was speed — 4.29 speed in the 40, to be precise — so it's no surprise he caught the eye of the Raiders. Like many first-round picks for whom Oakland reached after being seduced by their speed, Washington never put it all together in the NFL. He started 25 of 30 games in his first two seasons in Oakland, intercepting four passes. After starting just three of 15 games in 2007, he was traded to Baltimore for a fourth-round pick. He started 30 games over the next three seasons for the Ravens, intercepting one pass, before joining the Saints in training camp in 2011. He injured his hamstring, was released off injured reserve in September and never played again.

24. GREEN BAY: AARON RODGERS, QB, CALIFORNIA

2005-present, Green Bay
All-Pro Seasons: 2 (2011, '14)

There was some debate leading up to the draft about Rodgers being perhaps the best quarterback coming out and a possible No. 1 overall pick. But when the 49ers went with Alex Smith, Rodgers fell further than anyone expected. Perhaps he was hurt by the fact that previous passers who played their college ball under Jeff Tedford had not fared well in the NFL, or the fact that he played only two seasons at Cal after junior college; whatever the case, many thought he would need time to adjust to the pro game. With Brett Favre still going strong, the Packers were in position to give him that time. After three years as Favre's understudy, Rodgers took over and has not looked back. All he's done in seven seasons is go 76–38 as the starter (including playoffs) with two All-Pro selections and two NFL MVP Awards. He was named MVP of Super Bowl XLV. Other than a seven-game stretch in 2013 after he broke his collarbone, he's started every meaningful game in his seven seasons since taking over. In his six full seasons, he is averaging 4,286 yards, 35 touchdowns and eight interceptions. While those three seasons of waiting will prevent him from challenging Favre's Green Bay records, he's the surest bet from this list to make his way to the Hall of Fame.

Jones: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Campbell: Bruce Schwartzman

25. WASHINGTON: JASON CAMPBELL, QB, AUBURN

2005-09, Washington; **2010-11**, Oakland; **2012**, Chicago; **2013**, Cleveland; **2014-present**, Cincinnati; **All-Pro Seasons:** None

After taking his Auburn teammate Carlos Rogers earlier, Washington traded back into the first round to grab Campbell. Still, the Redskins had Mark Brunell and didn't rush Campbell, and he failed to attempt a pass for a season-and-a-half before being named the starter for the final seven games of 2006. Despite a 2–5 record, Campbell showed some promise and spent the next three seasons as the Washington starter. But after a 4–12 season in 2009, Campbell was traded to Oakland. After starting 12 games for the Raiders in 2010, Campbell has settled into the role of veteran backup, going 4–2 for the Raiders in 2011 and then bouncing to Chicago (2012) to Cleveland (2013) to Cincinnati (2014). While he never proved to be the franchise quarterback all teams want in the first round, he has provided a nice security blanket as a career 60.3 percent passer who has thrown more touchdowns than interceptions (87-to-60 ratio).

26. SEATTLE: CHRIS SPENCER, OL, OLE MISS

2005-10, Seattle; **2011-12**, Chicago; **2013-14**, Tennessee
All-Pro Seasons: None

Projected as a late second-round pick as a center, Spencer snuck into the first round when Seattle grabbed him, and he saw action in seven games as a rookie. After starting 13 games at left guard in 2006, Spencer took over for retiring center Robbie Tobeck in 2007. After three seasons starting at the spot and another at right guard, Spencer signed with Chicago and started 14 games in 2011 at right guard. After he started just five games in 2012, he signed with Tennessee and served as the Titans' backup center, starting six of 32 games in 2013-14. He has yet to sign a contract for 2015.

27. ATLANTA: RODDY WHITE, WR, UAB

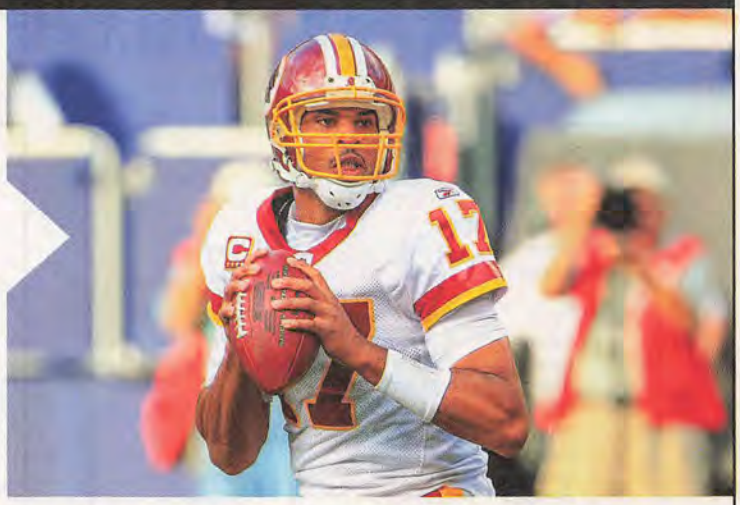
2005-present, Atlanta
All-Pro Seasons: 1 (2010)

It took White a couple years to adjust to the NFL, but once he did he became one of the league's most consistent weapons. After catching 59 passes for 952 yards in his first two seasons combined, White exploded for 83 catches and 1,202 yards in 2007. Then quarterback Matt Ryan arrived, and White really took off. Despite missing a handful of games the last two seasons and the emergence of Julio Jones, White has averaged 89 catches for 1,172 yards since Ryan arrived. His 115 catches in 2010 led the NFL, and he went to four straight Pro Bowls from 2008-11. He is the most prolific receiver in Falcons history with 765 career catches for 10,357 yards and 62 touchdowns.

28. SAN DIEGO: LUIS CASTILLO, DT, NORTHWESTERN

2005-11, San Diego; **All-Pro Seasons:** None

Castillo made headlines before he was even drafted when he admitted he used steroids in an effort to get healthy for the NFL Combine. San Diego took a shot on Castillo anyway, and it paid off quickly as Castillo started 15 games as a rookie. He was named to several all-rookie teams after recording a career-high 49 tackles and 3.5 sacks. In 2006, he played just 10 games due to injury but recorded 7.0 sacks. A knee injury limited him to 10 games again in 2007, and it seemed to rob him of his explosiveness. While he started 45 of the Chargers' 48 games from 2008-10, he totaled just six more sacks in those three seasons to bring his career total to 19.0. He never matched his rookie tackles total, and his career ended in the 2011 opener when he suffered a broken leg.



29. INDIANAPOLIS: MARLIN JACKSON, CB, MICHIGAN

2005-09, Indianapolis; **All-Pro Seasons:** None

Jackson was a part-time starter for the Colts in his first two seasons, but he got a boost when he picked off Tom Brady in the final minute of the 2006 AFC title game to seal a trip to the Super Bowl for the Colts. He started every game the following season for the defending champs and was solid if unspectacular with 87 tackles, two fumble recoveries and one interception. He started the first seven games of 2008 before injuring his knee in practice, and he was never the same. He returned to play in four games in 2009, intercepting one pass, but that was it for his Indianapolis career. He signed a two-year deal with Philadelphia in 2010 with the idea of moving to safety, but he blew out his Achilles in minicamp and never played a down for the Eagles.

30. PITTSBURGH: HEATH MILLER, TE, VIRGINIA

2005-present, Pittsburgh; **All-Pro Seasons:** None

Originally a quarterback when he arrived at Virginia for college, Miller left as a unanimous first-team All-American. In an era of tight ends becoming more like wide receivers, Miller has become one of the most beloved Steelers by being an all-around tight end who can block as well as run and catch. A reliable target for Ben Roethlisberger, Miller has played in at least 14 games in each of his 10 seasons, racking up 532 catches for 6,034 yards and 43 touchdowns. He's a two-time Pro Bowl selection.

31. PHILADELPHIA: MIKE PATTERSON, DT, USC

2005-12, Philadelphia; **2013-14**, N.Y. Giants; **All-Pro Seasons:** None

Patterson helped USC win two national titles and was an All-American before arriving in Philadelphia. After starting seven games as a rookie and recording 3.5 sacks, Patterson claimed a spot in the starting lineup and was entrenched there for the next six seasons. While he never made a Pro Bowl, he was durable (missing only two games in those six seasons) and plugged the middle while picking up 13 more sacks. He began suffering from seizures in training camp in 2011. He played that season but missed most of the 2012 season after brain surgery. He was released and signed with the Giants, starting nine games in 2013-14 and picking up 50 tackles. He is unsigned for 2015.

32. NEW ENGLAND: LOGAN MANKINS, OL, FRESNO STATE

2005-13, New England; **2014-present**, Tampa Bay, **All-Pro Seasons:** 1 (2010)

Mankins was an All-WAC selection at Fresno State after not allowing a sack as a left tackle his senior season. He was moved to left guard by the Patriots and didn't miss a beat, starting every game for his first five seasons and twice making the Pro Bowl. He held out for the first seven games of 2010, but when he returned he played well enough to be named first-team All-Pro and make his third Pro Bowl. After three more Pro Bowl seasons, Mankins was traded to Tampa Bay in late August 2014. He started every game for the Buccaneers last season.

2015 DRAFT RECAP

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ROUND 1

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	COLLEGE
1.	Buccaneers	Jameis Winston	QB	Florida State
2.	Titans	Marcus Mariota	QB	Oregon
3.	Jaguars	Dante Fowler Jr.	OLB	Florida
4.	Raiders	Amari Cooper	WR	Alabama
5.	Redskins	Brandon Scherff	OG	Iowa
6.	Jets	Leonard Williams	DE	USC
7.	Bears	Kevin White	WR	West Virginia
8.	Falcons	Vic Beasley	OLB	Clemson
9.	Giants	Ereck Flowers	OG	Miami (Fla.)
10.	Rams	Todd Gurley	RB	Georgia
11.	Vikings	Trae Waynes	CB	Michigan State
12.	Browns	Danny Shelton	NT	Washington
13.	Saints	Andrus Peat	OT	Stanford
14.	Dolphins	DeVante Parker	WR	Louisville
15.	Chargers	Melvin Gordon	RB	Wisconsin
16.	Texans	Kevin Johnson	CB	Wake Forest
17.	49ers	Arik Armstead	DT	Oregon
18.	Chiefs	Marcus Peters	CB	Washington
19.	Browns	Cameron Erving	C	Florida State
20.	Eagles	Nelson Agholor	WR	USC
21.	Bengals	Cedric Ogbuehi	OT	Texas A&M
22.	Steelers	Alvin Dupree	OLB	Kentucky
23.	Broncos	Shane Ray	DE	Missouri
24.	Cardinals	D.J. Humphries	OT	Florida
25.	Panthers	Shaq Thompson	OLB	Washington
26.	Ravens	Breshad Perriman	WR	Central Florida
27.	Cowboys	Byron Jones	CB	Connecticut
28.	Lions	Laken Tomlinson	OG	Duke
29.	Colts	Phillip Dorsett	WR	Miami (Fla.)
30.	Packers	Damarious Randall	FS	Arizona State
31.	Saints	Stephone Anthony	ILB	Clemson
32.	Patriots	Malcom Brown	DT	Texas

ROUND 2

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	COLLEGE
33.	Giants	Landon Collins	SS	Alabama
34.	Buccaneers	Donovan Smith	OT	Penn State
35.	Raiders	Mario Edwards Jr.	DT	Florida State
36.	Jaguars	T.J. Yeldon	RB	Alabama
37.	Jets	Devin Smith	WR	Ohio State
38.	Redskins	Preston Smith	DE	Mississippi State
39.	Bears	Eddie Goldman	DT	Florida State
40.	Titans	Dorial Green-Beckham	WR	Oklahoma
41.	Panthers	Devin Funchess	TE	Michigan
42.	Falcons	Jalen Collins	CB	LSU
43.	Texans	Benardrick McKinney	ILB	Mississippi State
44.	Saints	Hau'oli Kikaha	OLB	Washington
45.	Vikings	Eric Kendricks	ILB	UCLA
46.	49ers	Jaquiski Tartt	SS	Samford
47.	Eagles	Eric Rowe	CB	Utah
48.	Chargers	Denzel Perryman	ILB	Miami (Fla.)
49.	Chiefs	Mitch Morse	OG	Missouri
50.	Bills	Ronald Darby	CB	Florida State
51.	Browns	Nate Orchard	DE	Utah
52.	Dolphins	Jordan Phillips	NT	Oklahoma
53.	Bengals	Jake Fisher	OT	Oregon
54.	Lions	Ameer Abdullah	RB	Nebraska
55.	Ravens	Maxx Williams	TE	Minnesota
56.	Steelers	Senquez Golson	CB	Ole Miss
57.	Rams	Rob Havenstein	OT	Wisconsin
58.	Cardinals	Markus Golden	DE	Missouri
59.	Broncos	Ty Sambrailo	OT	Colorado State
60.	Cowboys	Randy Gregory	OLB	Nebraska
61.	Buccaneers	Ali Marpet	C	Hobart
62.	Packers	Quinten Rollins	CB	Miami (Ohio)
63.	Seahawks	Frank Clark	DE	Michigan
64.	Patriots	Jordan Richards	SS	Stanford

ROUND 3

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	COLLEGE
65.	Colts	D'Joun Smith	CB	Florida Atlantic
66.	Titans	Jeremiah Poutasi	OG	Utah
67.	Jaguars	A.J. Cann	OG	South Carolina
68.	Raiders	Clive Walford	TE	Miami (Fla.)
69.	Seahawks	Tyler Lockett	WR	Kansas State
70.	Texans	Jaelen Strong	WR	Arizona State
71.	Bears	Hroniss Grasu	C	Oregon
72.	Rams	Jamon Brown	OT	Louisville
73.	Falcons	Tevin Coleman	RB	Indiana
74.	Giants	Owamagbe Odighizuwa	DE	UCLA
75.	Saints	Garrett Grayson	QB	Colorado State
76.	Chiefs	Chris Conley	WR	Georgia
77.	Browns	Duke Johnson	RB	Miami (Fla.)
78.	Saints	P.J. Williams	CB	Florida State
79.	49ers	Eli Harold	OLB	Virginia
80.	Lions	Alex Carter	CB	Stanford
81.	Bills	John Miller	OG	Louisville
82.	Jets	Lorenzo Mauldin	OLB	Louisville
83.	Chargers	Craig Mager	CB	Texas State
84.	Eagles	Jordan Hicks	OLB	Texas
85.	Bengals	Tyler Kroft	TE	Rutgers
86.	Cardinals	David Johnson	RB	Northern Iowa
87.	Steelers	Sammie Coates	WR	Auburn
88.	Vikings	Danielle Hunter	DE	LSU
89.	Rams	Sean Mannion	QB	Oregon State
90.	Ravens	Carl Davis	DT	Iowa
91.	Cowboys	Chaz Green	OT	Florida
92.	Broncos	Jeff Heuerman	TE	Ohio State
93.	Colts	Henry Anderson	DE	Stanford
94.	Packers	Ty Montgomery	WR	Stanford
95.	Redskins	Matt Jones	RB	Florida
96.	Browns	Xavier Cooper	DT	Washington State
97.	Patriots	Geneo Grissom	DE	Oklahoma
98.	Chiefs	Steven Nelson	CB	Oregon State
99.	Bengals	Paul Dawson	ILB	TCU

ROUND 4

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	COLLEGE
100.	Titans	Angelo Blackson	DT	Auburn
101.	Patriots	Trey Flowers	DE	Arkansas
102.	Panthers	Daryl Williams	OG	Oklahoma
103.	Jets	Bryce Petty	QB	Baylor
104.	Jaguars	James Sample	SS	Louisville
105.	Redskins	Jamison Crowder	WR	Duke
106.	Bears	Jeremy Langford	RB	Michigan State
107.	Falcons	Justin Hardy	WR	East Carolina
108.	Titans	Jalston Fowler Jr.	FB	Alabama
109.	Colts	Clayton Geathers	SS	Central Florida
110.	Vikings	T.J. Clemmings	OT	Pittsburgh
111.	Patriots	Tre' Jackson	OG	Florida State
112.	Redskins	Arie Kouandjio	OG	Alabama
113.	Lions	Gabe Wright	DT	Auburn
114.	Dolphins	Jamil Douglas	OG	Arizona State
115.	Browns	Ibraheim Campbell	SS	Northwestern
116.	Cardinals	Rodney Gunter	DT	Delaware State
117.	49ers	Blake Bell	TE	Oklahoma
118.	Chiefs	Ramik Wilson	ILB	Georgia
119.	Rams	Andrew Donnal	OT	Iowa
120.	Bengals	Josh Shaw	CB	USC
121.	Steelers	Doran Grant	CB	Ohio State
122.	Ravens	Za'Darius Smith	DE	Kentucky
123.	Browns	Vince Mayle	WR	Washington State
124.	Buccaneers	Kwon Alexander	OLB	LSU
125.	Ravens	Javorius Allen	RB	USC
126.	49ers	Mike Davis	RB	South Carolina
127.	Cowboys	Damien Wilson	ILB	Minnesota
128.	Raiders	Jon Feliciano	OG	Miami (Fla.)
129.	Packers	Jake Ryan	OLB	Michigan
130.	Seahawks	Terry Poole	OG	San Diego State

2015 DRAFT RECAP

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ROUND 4 (cont'd)

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	COLLEGE
131.	Patriots	Shaq Mason	C	Georgia Tech
132.	49ers	DeAndre Smelter	WR	Georgia Tech
133.	Broncos	Max Garcia	C	Florida
134.	Seahawks	Mark Glowinski	OG	West Virginia
135.	Bengals	Marcus Hardison	DE	Arizona State
136.	Ravens	Tray Walker	CB	Texas Southern

ROUND 5

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	COLLEGE
137.	Falcons	Grady Jarrett	NT	Clemson
138.	Titans	David Cobb	RB	Minnesota
139.	Jaguars	Rashad Greene	WR	Florida State
140.	Raiders	Ben Heeney	ILB	Kansas
141.	Redskins	Martrell Spaight	OLB	Arkansas
142.	Bears	Adrian Amos	FS	Penn State
143.	Vikings	MyCole Pruitt	TE	Southern Illinois
144.	Giants	Mykkele Thompson	S	Texas
145.	Dolphins	Bobby McCain	CB	Memphis
146.	Vikings	Stefon Diggs	WR	Maryland
147.	Packers	Brett Hundley	QB	UCLA
148.	Saints	Davis Tull	OLB	Chattanooga
149.	Dolphins	Jay Ajayi	RB	Boise State
150.	Dolphins	Cedric Thompson	FS	Minnesota
151.	Colts	David Parry	NT	Stanford
152.	Jets	Jarvis Harrison	OG	Texas A&M
153.	Chargers	Kyle Emanuel	OLB	North Dakota State
154.	Saints	Tyeler Davison	DT	Fresno State
155.	Bills	Karlos Williams	RB	Florida State
156.	Dolphins	Tony Lippett	WR	Michigan State
157.	Bengals	C.J. Uzomah	TE	Auburn
158.	Cardinals	Shaquille Riddick	DE	West Virginia
159.	Cardinals	JJ Nelson	WR	UAB
160.	Steelers	Jesse James	TE	Penn State
161.	Raiders	Neiron Ball	OLB	Florida
162.	Buccaneers	Kenny Bell	WR	Nebraska
163.	Cowboys	Ryan Russell	DE	Purdue
164.	Broncos	Lorenzo Doss	CB	Tulane
165.	49ers	Bradley Pinion	P	Clemson
166.	Patriots	Joe Cardona	LS	Navy
167.	Saints	Damian Swann	CB	Georgia
168.	Lions	Michael Burton	FB	Rutgers
169.	Panthers	David Mayo	LB	Texas State
170.	Seahawks	Tye Smith	CB	Towson
171.	Ravens	Nick Boyle	TE	Delaware
172.	Chiefs	D.J. Alexander	OLB	Oregon State
173.	Chiefs	James O'Shaughnessy	TE	Illinois State
174.	Panthers	Cameron Artis-Payne	RB	Auburn
175.	Texans	Keith Mumphery	WR	Michigan State
176.	Ravens	Robert Myers	OG	Tennessee State

ROUND 6

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	COLLEGE
177.	Titans	Deiontrez Mount	OLB	Louisville
178.	Patriots	Matthew Wells	LB	Mississippi State
179.	Raiders	Max Valles	OLB	Virginia
180.	Jaguars	Michael Bennett	DT	Ohio State
181.	Redskins	Kyshoen Jarrett	SS	Virginia Tech
182.	Redskins	Tevin Mitchel	CB	Arkansas
183.	Bears	Tayo Fabuluje	OT	TCU
184.	Buccaneers	Kaelin Clay	WR	Utah
185.	Vikings	Tyrus Thompson	OT	Oklahoma
186.	Giants	Geremy Davis	WR	Connecticut
187.	Redskins	Evan Spencer	WR	Ohio State
188.	Bills	Tony Steward	OLB	Clemson
189.	Browns	Charles Gaines	CB	Louisville
190.	49ers	Ian Silberman	OG	Boston College
191.	Eagles	JaCorey Shepherd	CB	Kansas

ROUND 6 (cont'd)

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	COLLEGE
192.	Chargers	Darius Philon	DT	Arkansas
193.	Vikings	B.J. Dubose	DE	Louisville
194.	Bills	Nick O'Leary	TE	Florida State
195.	Browns	Malcolm Johnson	TE	Mississippi State
196.	Eagles	Randall Evans	CB	Kansas State
197.	Bengals	Derron Smith	FS	Fresno State
198.	Browns	Randall Telfer	TE	USC
199.	Steelers	Leterrius Walton	DT	Central Michigan
200.	Lions	Quandre Diggs	CB	Texas
201.	Rams	Bud Sasser	WR	Missouri
202.	Patriots	A.J. Derby	TE	Arkansas
203.	Broncos	Darius Kilgo	NT	Maryland
204.	Ravens	Darren Waller	WR	Georgia Tech
205.	Colts	Josh Robinson	RB	Mississippi State
206.	Packers	Aaron Ripkowski	FB	Oklahoma
207.	Colts	Amarlo Herrera	ILB	Georgia
208.	Titans	Andy Gallik	C	Boston College
209.	Seahawks	Obum Gwacham	DE	Oregon State
210.	Packers	Christian Ringo	DE	UL Lafayette
211.	Texans	Reshard Cliett	OLB	South Florida
212.	Steelers	Anthony Chickillo	DE	Miami (Fla.)
213.	Packers	Kennard Backman	TE	UAB
214.	Seahawks	Kristjan Sokoli	DT	Buffalo
215.	Rams	Cody Wichmann	OG	Fresno State
216.	Texans	Christian Covington	DT	Rice
217.	Chiefs	Rakeem Nunez-Roches	DT	Southern Miss

ROUND 7

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	COLLEGE
218.	Raiders	Anthony Morris	OL	Tennessee State
219.	Browns	Hayes Pullard	ILB	USC
220.	Jaguars	Neal Sterling	WR	Monmouth
221.	Raiders	Andre Debose	WR	Florida
222.	Redskins	Austin Reiter	C	South Florida
223.	Jets	Deon Simon	NT	Northwestern State
224.	Rams	Bryce Hager	ILB	Baylor
225.	Falcons	Jake Rodgers	OT	East. Washington
226.	Giants	Bobby Hart	OG	Florida State
227.	Rams	Martin Ifedi	DE	Memphis
228.	Vikings	Austin Shepherd	OT	Alabama
229.	Jaguars	Ben Koyack	TE	Notre Dame
230.	Saints	Marcus Murphy	RB	Missouri
231.	Buccaneers	Joey Iosefa	FB	Hawaii
232.	Vikings	Edmond Robinson	OLB	Newberry
233.	Chiefs	Da'Ron Brown	WR	Northern Illinois
234.	Bills	Dezmin Lewis	WR	Central Arkansas
235.	Texans	Kenny Hilliard	RB	LSU
236.	Cowboys	Mark Nzeocha	OLB	Wyoming
237.	Eagles	Brian Mihalik	DE	Boston College
238.	Bengals	Mario Alford	WR	West Virginia
239.	Steelers	Gerod Holliman	FS	Louisville
240.	Lions	Corey Robinson	OT	South Carolina
241.	Browns	Ifo Ekpre-Olomu	CB	Oregon
242.	Raiders	Dexter McDonald	CB	Kansas
243.	Cowboys	Laurence Gibson	OT	Virginia Tech
244.	49ers	Trenton Brown	OG	Florida
245.	Titans	Tre McBride	WR	William & Mary
246.	Cowboys	Geoff Swaim	TE	Texas
247.	Patriots	Darryl Roberts	CB	Marshall
248.	Seahawks	Ryan Murphy	DB	Oregon State
249.	Falcons	Akeem King	DB	San Jose State
250.	Broncos	Trevor Siemian	QB	Northwestern
251.	Broncos	Taurean Nixon	DB	Tulane
252.	Broncos	Josh Furman	DB	Oklahoma State
253.	Patriots	Xzavier Dickson	OLB	Alabama
254.	49ers	Rory 'Busta' Anderson	TE	South Carolina
255.	Colts	Denzell Goode	OT	Mars Hill
256.	Cardinals	Gerald Christian	TE	Louisville

2015 DRAFT RECAP

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QUARTERBACK CLASS OF 2015

Only seven signal callers were selected this year, marking the fewest since 1955. This year, Heisman Trophy winners Jameis Winston and Marcus Mariota stole the show before the QB class nearly flat-lined.

Jameis Winston

Florida State (Buccaneers, 1st overall)

As controversial as he is charismatic, Winston won a national title and posted a 26–1 record with eight second-half comebacks during his two seasons as the starter at Florida State. Famous Jameis stays within the Sunshine State and Seminole fanbase, becoming the first QB taken No. 1 overall by the Buccaneers since Miami's Heisman Trophy-winning Vinny Testaverde in 1987.

Marcus Mariota, Oregon (Titans, 2nd)

The humble Hawaiian is a freak athlete — running a 4.52 in the 40-yard dash and skying for a 36-inch vertical leap after weighing in at 6'4" and 222 pounds at the NFL Combine. Instead of being reunited with former college coach Chip Kelly in Philadelphia, Mariota becomes Tennessee's third top-10 pick at quarterback in 10 years, following in the footsteps of Vince Young (3rd, 2006) and Jake Locker (8th, 2011). Aloha, y'all.

Garrett Grayson, Colorado State (Saints, 75th)

Grayson is next in line to the throne of Who Dat Nation, as ageless wonder and regional treasure Drew Brees enters his age-36 season in the Big Easy.

Sean Mannion, Oregon State (Rams, 89th)

Mannion has the size (6'6", 229) and also the pedigree, having been schooled in a pro-style offense by former NFL coach Mike Riley at Oregon State.

Bryce Petty, Baylor (Jets, 103rd)

Two years after taking West Virginia's Geno Smith in the second round, Gang Green has added another young arm to the mix. Petty posted video-game numbers at Baylor.

Brett Hundley, UCLA (Packers, 147th)

There's a history of former Packer backups who leave Green Bay and become starters somewhere outside of Title Town (see: Matt Hasselbeck, Aaron Brooks).

Trevor Siemian, Northwestern (Broncos, 250th)

Siemian should become a human sponge, absorbing everything he possibly can from Peyton Manning and John Elway in Denver.

1-2 Punch

Winston and Mariota became just the sixth QB duo to be drafted 1-2 since the NFL-AFL merger. Regardless of how their careers play out, however, Winston and Mariota are scheduled to make their NFL debuts in a head-to-head Tennessee at Tampa Bay Week 1 matchup. Historically, it's a split decision on passers picked one and two.

2012 Andrew Luck, Stanford (Colts, 1st)
Robert Griffin III, Baylor (Redskins, 2nd)
RG3 won the Heisman Trophy and Offensive Rookie of the Year awards, but his rival Luck has emerged as an MVP candidate and ogre-bearded offensive juggernaut.

1999 Tim Couch, Kentucky (Browns, 1st)
Donovan McNabb, Syracuse (Eagles, 2nd)
The Bengals drafted Oregon's Akili Smith third for a 1-2-3 QB class. Couch and Smith busted; McNabb made five NFC title games and lost Super Bowl XXXIX.

1998 Peyton Manning, Tennessee (Colts, 1st)
Ryan Leaf, Washington State (Chargers, 2nd)
It's easy to forget how close this debate was. (*ESPN The Magazine* predicted Leaf, not Manning, would be a Hall of Famer.) Manning has five MVPs and a Super Bowl MVP; Leaf threw 14 career TDs.

1993 Drew Bledsoe, Washington State (Patriots, 1st)
Rick Mirer, Notre Dame (Seahawks, 2nd)
Bledsoe led the Pats to an AFC title but has since become the answer to the trivia question: "Who is the quarterback Tom Brady replaced?" Mirer was mired down by bad teams and the "next Joe Montana" label.

1971 Jim Plunkett, Stanford (Patriots, 1st)
Archie Manning, Ole Miss (Saints, 2nd)
Plunkett is the only eligible two-time Super Bowl-winning QB not in the Hall of Fame. Archie ran for his life in NOLA while raising two future No. 1-pick Super Bowl MVP sons.

Winston: Tom DiPace; Graham: Kyle Lanzer; Unger: AP

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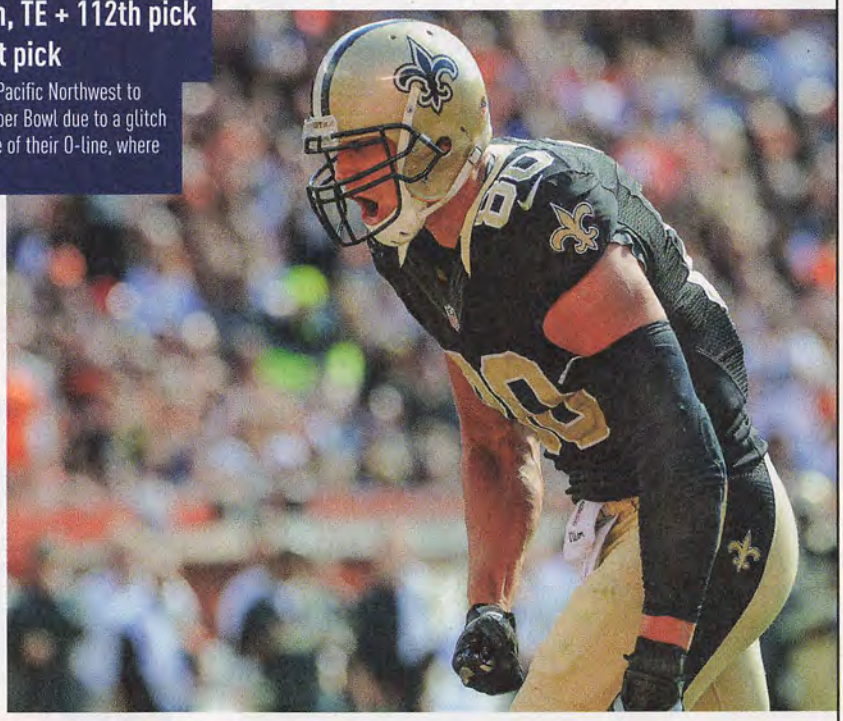
TRADE COMMODITIES

Incoming rookies hog all of the attention on draft weekend. But there are plenty of impact veterans who were traded as part of deals that included 2015 draft picks. When thinking about a team's draft haul, don't forget these valuable assets.

Seahawks acquire: Jimmy Graham, TE + 112th pick
Saints acquire: Max Unger, C + 31st pick

The game's best goal post-dunking tight end flies to the Pacific Northwest to play with a team that failed to win its second straight Super Bowl due to a glitch at the goal line. Meanwhile, the Saints protect the middle of their O-line, where Drew Brees is most vulnerable.



Eagles acquire: Sam Bradford, QB + 145th pick
Rams acquire: Nick Foles, QB + 119th pick + 2016 2nd rounder

One of Chip Kelly's many moves this offseason — which also included trading Pro Bowl runner LeSean McCoy to Buffalo in exchange for former Oregon Duck linebacker Kiko Alonso. Bradford and Foles could be stop-gap solutions or long-term answers in this game of QB musical chairs.

Bills acquire: Sammy Watkins, WR (2014 4th pick)
Browns acquire: 19th pick + 115th pick + Justin Gilbert, CB (2014 8th pick)

Hindsight is 20-20. Bills fans on both sides of the border are griping that Buffalo could have stayed at No. 9 and taken Odell Beckham Jr. (91 catches for 1,305 yards and 12 TDs in 12 games) instead of trading this year's first- and fourth-rounders to move up to take Watkins (65 catches for 982 yards and six TDs in 16 games).

Lions acquire: Haloti Ngata, DT + 231st pick
Ravens acquire: 122nd pick + 158th pick

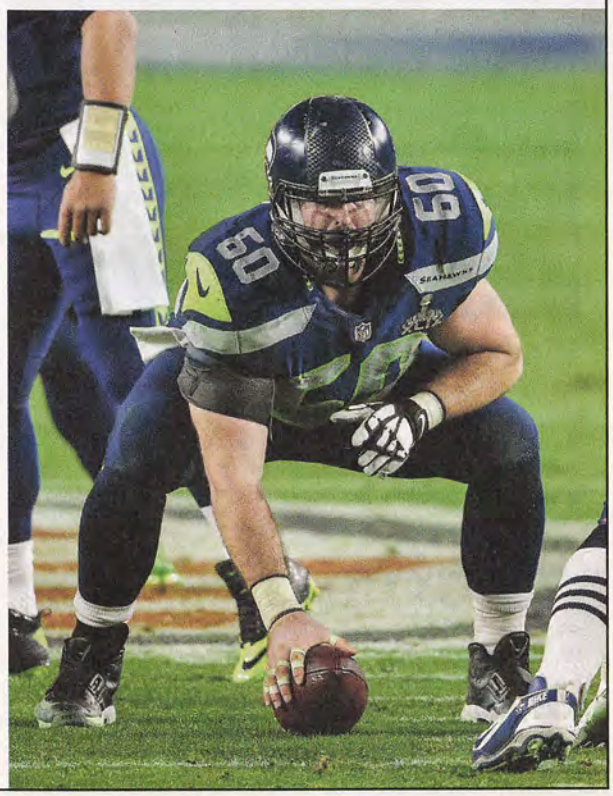
Detroit lost its monster in the middle, Ndamukong Suh, to a six-year, $114 million deal in Miami. So the Lions traded a fourth- and fifth-rounder for another 300-pound Pro Bowler.

Vikings acquire: Mike Wallace, WR + 232nd pick
Dolphins acquire: 149th pick

It doesn't take an investigative journalist to know a fifth-round pick is a cheap price for a speedy (albeit high-maintenance) wideout with 5,834 yards and 47 TDs in six seasons.

Rams acquire: Mark Barron, S, Rams
Buccaneers acquire: 109th pick + 183rd pick

The No. 7 overall pick in 2012, Barron has not lived up to his draft status. And his shortcomings may have hurt the stock of fellow Bama safety Landon Collins, who was the first pick of the second round (33rd).



Much Ado About Nothing

Click bait, anyone? There were more pre-draft stories written about trades that didn't happen than those that did transpire.

Philip Rivers, QB, Chargers

Swiss Family Rivers (wife Tiffany and seven kids) won't be playing near Philip's home town of Athens, Ala., or reuniting with former coordinator and Titans coach Ken Whisenhunt after all.

Adrian Peterson, RB, Vikings

A.D. spent all day being unhappy with his situation in Minnesota, where he and his agent reportedly feel betrayed by the front office. But he didn't get traded to Dallas or Arizona or anywhere else.

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Look Good, Play Good; Play Good, Pay Good

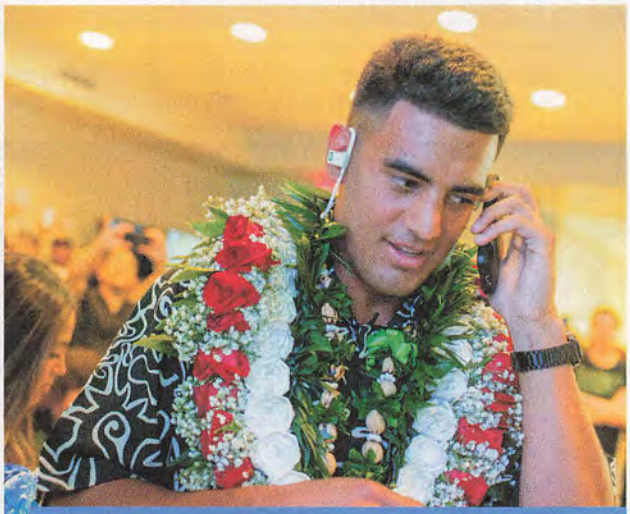
The first player to actually walk across the stage made up for the lost time of the top two picks. Jaguars' No. 3 pick Dante Fowler Jr. sported gold shoes, gold chains, a white suit with red satin lapels and a yellow-trimmed white bowtie.

King of All Media

This year's NFL Draft was the highest-rated cable show on Thursday, April 30, and the third-highest-rated draft since ESPN first broadcast the event in 1980. Day 1 of the three-day, seven-round hiring spree drew nearly nine million combined viewers of the simulcasts on ESPN and NFL Network — or twice as many viewers as Game 6 of the playoff matchup between the Los Angeles Clippers and San Antonio Spurs.

Social Anxiety

Jameis Winston became the first No. 1 pick to no-show at the NFL Draft since "Big Daddy" Dan Wilkinson failed to attend in 1994. But Winston did roll out the red carpet for family and friends, including longtime girlfriend Breion Allen — who was seen in the background of a since-deleted Instagram photo of Jameis with a plate of crab legs. Who knows whether or not they were purchased or from Publix?



Draft Day Lei

The draft took place in Chicago this year, the first time it has been held outside of New York City since 1964. But Marcus Mariota decided his native Honolulu, Hawaii, was more to his liking. Like Winston, Mariota watched on television as his name was called — or butchered, as was the case with the No. 2 pick — while covered in celebratory Hawaiian leis. Commissioner Roger Goodell announced "Marcus Mariotto" but Mariota didn't even notice. "Everyone was cheering so loud that I wasn't able to actually hear it," Mariota told 104.5 The Zone in Nashville. "He gave me a call probably half an hour later. He apologized, and I'm like, 'I have no idea what you're talking about.' But he was really apologetic, and I truly respect that for sure."

Samoan Sack

Hugging emotional draftees on stage has become Commissioner Goodell's "thing." That's what he does. Over the years, he's added some flair with personal handshakes and high-fives or extended tear-filled embraces with 20-somethings whose childhood dreams have just become a reality. But nothing compares to Goodell's run-in with 340-pound Danny Shelton, who lifted the Commish off the ground after being the No. 12 pick by the Browns.

Competitive Disadvantage

After the Rams made running back Todd Gurley the No. 10 pick, St. Louis runner Zac Stacy tweeted out his concerns with a succinct 'Yikes'. Two days later, Stacy was traded to the Jets for the No. 224 pick.

Fowler, Mariota, Goodell: AP; Gurley: Tami Chappell

2015 DRAFT RECAP

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S-E-C! S-E-C!

The SEC may not have won either of the last two national championship trophies — which were won by Ohio State and Florida State, respectively — but the conference had the most players selected in the NFL Draft, yet again.

54 SEC
47 ACC
39 Pac-12
35 Big Ten
25 Big 12
11 American
10 Mountain West
6 C-USA
4 MAC
4 Missouri Valley
3 CAA
3 Sun Belt
2 Independents*
2 OVC
2 South Atlantic
2 SoCon
2 Southland
1 Big Sky
1 Big South
1 Liberty
1 MEAC
1 SWAC
*Navy (1), Notre Dame (1)

TODD GURLEY

Alma Mater

The SEC may have had the most combined picks, but the conference can't boast either of the top two schools with the most players selected in this year's draft.

11 Florida State
10 Louisville
8 Florida
7 Alabama
7 Miami (Fla.)
6 Missouri
6 Oklahoma
6 Stanford
6 USC
5 Arkansas
5 Auburn
5 Clemson
5 Georgia
5 Mississippi State
5 Ohio State
5 Oregon
5 Oregon State
5 Texas
4 Arizona State
4 LSU
4 Michigan State
4 Minnesota
4 South Carolina
4 Utah
4 Washington
4 West Virginia

Running Back Comeback

Reports of the demise of the first-round running back were greatly exaggerated. Prior to this year, no running back had been selected in the first round since Alabama's Trent Richardson (Browns, 3rd) in 2012. That streak is over. Georgia's Todd Gurley (Rams, 10th) and Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon (Chargers, 15th) were both taken in the top half of the first round and probably won't last much longer than that during fantasy football drafts this fall.

Undrafted Top-10 Talent

LSU O-lineman La'el Collins was expected to be drafted early in the first round — until his name surfaced in a Baton Rouge murder investigation. Collins went undrafted due to the cloud hanging over his head and league-wide paranoia over selecting someone whose name was associated with such a heinous crime.

What a difference a police interview, negative paternity test and passed polygraph test can make. Collins signed a fully guaranteed $1.65 million contract with the Dallas Cowboys as an undrafted free agent. As a result, he has the opportunity to become a free agent after three seasons — as opposed to the five years he likely would have had to wait had he gone in the first round.

Small Schools, Big Expectations

As always, football factories dominated the draft; 236 of 256 total picks were from FBS schools. But there were three players from non-FBS schools selected in the top 100 (roughly the first three rounds) who will be expected to adjust on the fly and go from playing in front of a few thousand fans to playing in the most-watched league in America:

Jaquiski Tartt, S, Samford (49ers, 46th)
Ali Marpet, G, Hobart (Buccaneers, 61st)
David Johnson, RB, Northern Iowa (Cardinals, 86th)

2016 DRAFT OUTLOOK

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TOP 32

1. Joey Bosa*	DE	Ohio State
2. Ronnie Stanley	OT	Notre Dame
3. Laremy Tunsil*	OT	Ole Miss
4. DeForest Buckner	DT	Oregon
5. Vernon Hargreaves III*	CB	Florida
6. Jalen Ramsey*	FS	Florida State
7. A'Shawn Robinson*	DT	Alabama
8. Kendall Fuller*	CB	Virginia Tech
9. Su'a Cravens*	SS	USC
10. Cardale Jones*	QB	Ohio State
11. Jaylon Smith*	ILB	Notre Dame
12. Ezekiel Elliott*	RB	Ohio State
13. Christian Hackenberg*	QB	Penn State
14. Tyler Boyd*	WR	Pittsburgh
15. Laquon Treadwell*	WR	Ole Miss
16. Derrick Henry*	RB	Alabama
17. Emmanuel Ogbah*	DE	Oklahoma State
18. Robert Nkemdiche*	DE	Ole Miss
19. Jared Goff*	QB	California
20. D'haquille Williams	WR	Auburn
21. Taylor Decker	OT	Ohio State
22. Shawn Oakman	DE	Baylor
23. Shilique Calhoun	DE	Michigan State
24. Myles Jack*	OLB	UCLA
25. Anthony Zettel	DT	Penn State
26. Scooby Wright*	OLB	Arizona
27. Jack Conklin*	OT	Michigan State
28. Max Tuerk	C	USC
29. Nick Vannett	TE	Ohio State
30. Nick Martin	C	Notre Dame
31. O.J. Howard*	TE	Alabama
32. Spencer Drango	OT	Baylor

*denotes underclassman

Bosa: Sportfolio; Jones: Layne Murdoch; Boyd: Margaret Bowles; Alexander, Aguayo: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

2016 DRAFT OUTLOOK

Wrangler
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QUARTERBACKS

1. Cardale Jones*	Ohio State
2. Christian Hackenberg*	Penn State
3. Jared Goff*	California
4. Connor Cook	Michigan State
5. Dak Prescott	Mississippi State

RUNNING BACKS

1. Ezekiel Elliott*	Ohio State
2. Derrick Henry*	Alabama
3. James Conner*	Pittsburgh
4. Devontae Booker	Utah
5. Jonathan Williams	Arkansas

TIGHT ENDS

1. Nick Vannett	Ohio State
2. O.J. Howard*	Alabama
3. Hunter Henry*	Arkansas
4. Pharaoh Brown	Oregon
5. Dillon Gordon	LSU

WIDE RECEIVERS

1. Tyler Boyd*	Pittsburgh
2. Laquon Treadwell*	Ole Miss
3. D'haquille Williams	Auburn
4. Rashard Higgins*	Colorado State
5. Pharoh Cooper*	South Carolina

CENTERS

1. Max Tuerk	USC
2. Nick Martin	Notre Dame
3. Jake Brendel	UCLA
4. Jack Allen	Michigan State
5. Mike Matthews	Texas A&M

OFFENSIVE GUARDS

1. Vadal Alexander	LSU
2. Dexter Charles	Washington
3. Landon Turner	North Carolina
4. Christian Westerman	Arizona State
5. Jordan Rigsbee	California

OFFENSIVE TACKLES

1. Ronnie Stanley	Notre Dame
2. Laremy Tunsil*	Ole Miss
3. Taylor Decker	Ohio State
4. Jack Conklin*	Michigan State
5. Spencer Drango	Baylor

DEFENSIVE ENDS

1. Joey Bosa*	Ohio State
2. Emmanuel Ogbah*	Oklahoma State
3. Robert Nkemdiche*	Ole Miss
4. Shawn Oakman	Baylor
5. Shilique Calhoun	Michigan State

*denotes underclassman

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

1. DeForest Buckner	Oregon
2. A'Shawn Robinson*	Alabama
3. Anthony Zettel	Penn State
4. Adolphus Washington	Ohio State
5. Eddie Vanderdoes*	UCLA

INSIDE LINEBACKERS

1. Jaylon Smith*	Notre Dame
2. Cassanova McKinzy	Auburn
3. Reggie Ragland	Alabama
4. Jared Norris	Utah
5. Rodney Hardrick	Oregon

OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

1. Myles Jack*	UCLA
2. Scooby Wright III*	Arizona
3. Jordan Jenkins	Georgia
4. Leonard Floyd*	Georgia
5. Darron Lee*	Ohio State

CORNERBACKS

1. Vernon Hargreaves III*	Florida
2. Kendall Fuller*	Virginia Tech
3. Cameron Sutton*	Tennessee
4. Tony Conner*	Ole Miss
5. Zack Sanchez*	Oklahoma

STRONG SAFETIES

1. Su'a Cravens*	USC
2. Jeremy Cash	Duke
3. Karl Joseph	West Virginia
4. Mike Caputo	Wisconsin
5. Kevin Byard	Middle Tennessee

FREE SAFETIES

1. Jalen Ramsey*	Florida State
2. Jalen Mills	LSU
3. Jamal Golden	Georgia Tech
4. Deon Bush	Miami
5. Darian Thompson	Boise State

PLACEKICKERS

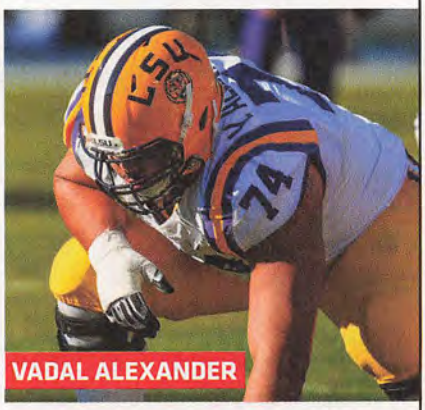
1. Roberto Aguayo*	Florida State
2. Brad Craddock	Maryland
3. Ka'imi Fairbairn	UCLA
4. Andy Phillips*	Utah
5. Ross Martin	Duke

PUNTERS

1. Tom Hackett	Utah
2. Peter Mortell	Minnesota
3. Jamie Keehn	LSU
4. Alexander Kinal	Wake Forest
5. Drew Riggleman	Arizona

CARDALE JONES

TYLER BOYD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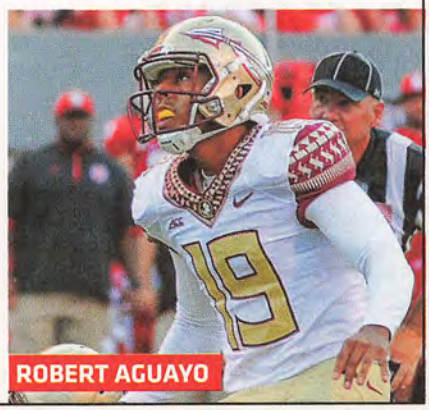

ROBERT AGUAYO

TOP 25

1. OHIO STATE BUCKEYES

College teams love to tout their success on draft day. The Buckeyes have reason to relish their — relatively speaking — quiet draft. Ohio State was the first national champion since 2002 not to produce a first-round pick immediately after winning a title. The Buckeyes' five total picks were fewer than 2014 also-rans Florida, Miami and Oklahoma. For Ohio State, that means that the core of a young, talented team is back for a run at another national title. Pass rusher Joey Bosa is in line to be a top draft pick in 2016 after earning unanimous All-America and Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year honors. Ezekiel Elliott is back after gaining more than 1,800 yards and will run behind a line that returns four starters. There are holes up the middle on defense, but Urban Meyer spent three years loading up for 2015. Nobody in the Big Ten has the type of athletes Ohio State does. The big question for Ohio State is internal, as in which star quarterback will start? Urban Meyer has won with all three — Cardale Jones, J.T. Barrett and Braxton Miller. None transferred or went pro, meaning all are in the running to take snaps in 2015 if all can stay healthy. If Meyer can prevent that competition from becoming a distraction, OSU might trample everyone in its way.

2. ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE

While other schools would love a chance to flame out in the national semifinals, Alabama has spent the offseason looking for ways to improve. One way to get better is to pack 10 straight amazing recruiting classes together and head into 2015 with more talent than just about anybody else. The Tide does need a quarterback. Florida State transfer Jake Coker will make his second bid for the job. Derrick Henry should lead a potent ground attack, but the defense could use some more nasty (and speed) in the back seven.

3. BAYLOR BEARS

No Bryce Petty? No problem in Waco. With Seth Russell throwing to Corey Coleman and KD Cannon, the Baylor offense will once again be among the fastest around. The question is whether the defense will be championship quality. The personnel is there for a much better performance, most notably pass rusher extraordinaire Shawn Oakman and defensive tackle Andrew Billings. The big question is whether a Big 12 championship, without a league title game, will be enough in Year 2 of the College Football Playoff.

4. AUBURN TIGERS

What's this? Gus Malzahn has decided that defense matters? If you're going to pay Will Muschamp $1.6 million a year to run that side of the ball, it had better be a priority. If Muschamp can make Auburn a little tougher on that side of the ball — and seven returning starters will help that cause — the Tigers could be quite dangerous. Jeremy Johnson will trigger Malzahn's run-first spread attack, which will again pile up the points. But maybe, just maybe, Auburn will play a little old-fashioned SEC ball control.

Ohio State: Ric Fogel, Alabama, Georgia: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports; Baylor: Bruce Schwartzman; Auburn: Tom DiPace/TCU: Chris Covatta; Oregon: Craig Mitchelldyer

5. TCU
HORNED FROGS

Horned Frogs fans still smarting from the 61–58 loss to Baylor last October had better hope that their heroes can find one more TD when TCU plays the Bears this season. That's critical, because for the first time in a while, defense is a question at TCU. Huge personnel losses on that side of the ball could make TCU games look even more like dragster races this season. With Heisman-contending quarterback Trevone Boykin back to trigger the offense, that's not such a bad thing.

6. USC
TROJANS

USC is back in the title chase. The Trojans have talent, but depth and experience are still questions, even though the school is finally off NCAA probation. Cody Kessler, a near-70 percent passer, is back after throwing for 3,826 yards and 39 TDs with just five picks.

7. MICHIGAN STATE
SPARTANS

Ohio State's championship and Jim Harbaugh's return to Michigan will steal headlines, but Sparty remains a force. Quarterback Connor Cook returns behind an experienced offensive line. End Shilique Calhoun anchors the defense, which must replace longtime coordinator Pat Narduzzi.

8. OREGON
DUCKS

Oregon may replace Heisman winner Marcus Mariota with Vernon Adams, a productive transfer from pass-happy Eastern Washington. The Ducks will be good again and probably pace the Pac-12, but without Mariota they might not be too imposing outside of the Pac-12 neighborhood.

9. FLORIDA STATE
SEMINOLES

Remember those great recruiting classes the Seminoles have been compiling the last few years? Get ready to see them in action this season. The big question is quarterback, where Sean Maguire takes over for Jameis Winston. Maguire managed to lead the Noles over Clemson, but he is by no means a proven commodity.

10. GEORGIA
BULLDOGS

Somebody has to carry the flag for the SEC East, and Georgia looks ready to do it. Sophomore running back Nick Chubb is a Heisman contender who should flourish under new coordinator Brian Schottenheimer. Is that enough to top the West? We'll find out when UGA plays Alabama and Auburn.

11. OLE MISS **REBELS**
The Rebels have the talent to build on last year's breakout season, but they'll have to do it behind new quarterback Chad Kelly, a junior college transfer who wore out his welcome at Clemson.

12. NOTRE DAME **FIGHTING IRISH**
Everett Golson and Malik Zaire will compete for the quarterback position, but the Irish defense needs a bounce-back season if Notre Dame is going to be a big-time postseason contender.

13. ARIZONA STATE **SUN DEVILS**
The Sun Devils are loaded with talent and are ready to play their full-throttle style on offense and defense. That means a ton of points, a non-stop stream of blitzes and at least one or two games this season that leave people wondering, "How did that happen?"

14. CLEMSON **TIGERS**
The stars for Clemson last season were coordinator Brent Venables and the defense, but the big storyline now is rising star quarterback Deshaun Watson playing without his superstar coordinator, Chad Morris.

15. LSU **TIGERS**
Sophomore running back Leonard Fournette is a budding star, but the Tigers' ever-lackluster quarterback position and reloading defense will determine whether LSU keeps slipping in the SEC West.

16. ARKANSAS **RAZORBACKS**
Instead of enduring another offseason of people wondering whether he belonged in the SEC, Bret Bielema has some serious momentum on his side. He'll try to keep it going with a charging-rhinoceros ground attack and stubborn defense.

17. OKLAHOMA **SOONERS**
The Sooners have a star running back in Samaje Perine and hired an Air Raid coordinator in Lincoln Riley from East Carolina. One of them will need to deliver, or Bob Stoops will start feeling the heat.

18. GEORGIA TECH **YELLOW JACKETS**
Don't worry about the Yellow Jackets' offense. But if Tech wants to continue the momentum from 2014's season-ending wins over Georgia and Mississippi State, it had better worry about the other side, too.

19. WISCONSIN **BADGERS**
Former Badgers offensive coordinator Paul Chryst returns after Bret Bielema and Gary Andersen left UW in surprising fashion. Expect Corey Clement to put up huge rushing numbers behind a typically stout line.

20. TEXAS A&M **AGGIES**
Former Tennessee and LSU coordinator John Chavis will try to build a respectable defense to go with the Aggies' high-powered offense. Easier said than done.

21. MISSISSIPPI STATE **BULLDOGS**
Coach Dan Mullen and quarterback Dak Prescott return from one of the best teams ever to play in Starkville. The supporting cast, though, is thin.

22. TENNESSEE **VOLUNTEERS**
Optimism is as high as it's been in a while in Knoxville thanks to Butch Jones and a bowl blowout of Iowa. The Vols are likely a year away, but that year should be fun to watch.

23. UCLA **BRUINS**
Quarterback Brett Hundley is gone, but the Bruins have recruited at a high enough level to contend in the Pac-12. Now, can they avoid the head-scratching loss?

24. STANFORD **CARDINAL**
If Stanford can continue last year's progress on offense, the Cardinal will contend in the Pac-12 North. If not, Stanford is in eight-win territory again.

25. BOISE STATE **BRONCOS**
The Broncos will be solid on both lines as they look for a new quarterback and a replacement for running back Jay Ajayi. A major bowl slot is possible again.

ATHLON SPORTS FANTASY FOOTBALL

POSITION RANKINGS

QUARTERBACKS	TEAM	BYE
☐ 1. Aaron **Rodgers**	GB	7
☐ 2. Andrew **Luck**	IND	10
☐ 3. Peyton **Manning**	DEN	7
☐ 4. Tom **Brady**	NE	4
☐ 5. Russell **Wilson**	SEA	9
☐ 6. Drew **Brees**	NO	11
☐ 7. Ben **Roethlisberger**	PIT	11
☐ 8. Matt **Ryan**	ATL	10
☐ 9. Cam **Newton**	CAR	5
☐ 10. Matthew **Stafford**	DET	9
☐ 11. Tony **Romo**	DAL	6
☐ 12. Ryan **Tannehill**	MIA	5
☐ 13. Philip **Rivers**	SD	10
☐ 14. Eli **Manning**	NYG	11
☐ 15. Sam **Bradford**	PHI	8
☐ 16. Colin **Kaepernick**	SF	10
☐ 17. Carson **Palmer**	ARI	9
☐ 18. Joe **Flacco**	BAL	9
☐ 19. Jay **Cutler**	CHI	7
☐ 20. Andy **Dalton**	CIN	7
☐ 21. Teddy **Bridgewater**	MIN	5
☐ 22. Robert **Griffin III**	WAS	8
☐ 23. Jameis **Winston**	TB	6
☐ 24. Alex **Smith**	KC	9
☐ 25. Nick **Foles**	STL	6
☐ 26. Blake **Bortles**	JAC	8
☐ 27. Derek **Carr**	OAK	6
☐ 28. Marcus **Mariota**	TEN	4
☐ 29. Ryan **Fitzpatrick**	NYJ	5
☐ 30. Josh **McCown**	CLE	11
☐ 31. Ryan **Mallett**	HOU	9
☐ 32. Matt **Cassel**	BUF	8
☐ 33. Geno **Smith**	NYJ	5
☐ 34. Brian **Hoyer**	HOU	9
☐ 35. EJ **Manuel**	BUF	8
☐ 36. Johnny **Manziel**	CLE	11

RUNNING BACKS	TEAM	BYE
☐ 1. Le'Veon **Bell**	PIT	11
☐ 2. Eddie **Lacy**	GB	7
☐ 3. Jamaal **Charles**	KC	9
☐ 4. Matt **Forté**	CHI	7
☐ 5. Marshawn **Lynch**	SEA	9
☐ 6. LeSean **McCoy**	BUF	8
☐ 7. Arian **Foster**	HOU	9
☐ 8. Adrian **Peterson**	MIN	5
☐ 9. DeMarco **Murray**	PHI	8
☐ 10. C.J. **Anderson**	DEN	7
☐ 11. Jeremy **Hill**	CIN	7
☐ 12. Mark **Ingram**	NO	11
☐ 13. Alfred **Morris**	WAS	8
☐ 14. Jonathan **Stewart**	CAR	5
☐ 15. Carlos **Hyde**	SF	10
☐ 16 Lamar **Miller**	MIA	5
☐ 17. Justin **Forsett**	BAL	9
☐ 18 Frank **Gore**	IND	10
☐ 19. Melvin **Gordon**	SD	10
☐ 20. Joique **Bell**	DET	9
☐ 21. Latavius **Murray**	OAK	6
☐ 22. Todd **Gurley**	STL	6
☐ 23. Andre **Ellington**	ARI	9
☐ 24. Tevin **Coleman**	ATL	10
☐ 25. T.J. **Yeldon**	JAC	8
☐ 26. Giovani **Bernard**	CIN	7
☐ 27. Chris **Ivory**	NYJ	5
☐ 28. Doug **Martin**	TB	6
☐ 29. Rashad **Jennings**	NYG	11
☐ 30. LeGarrette **Blount**	NE	4
☐ 31. Tre **Mason**	STL	6
☐ 32. Darren **McFadden**	DAL	6
☐ 33. C.J. **Spiller**	NO	11
☐ 34. Isaiah **Crowell**	CLE	11
☐ 35. Devonta **Freeman**	ATL	10
☐ 36. Joseph **Randle**	DAL	6
☐ 37 Bishop **Sankey**	TEN	4
☐ 38. Ryan **Mathews**	PHI	8
☐ 39. Shane **Vereen**	NYG	11
☐ 40 Terrance **West**	CLE	11
☐ 41. Andre **Williams**	NYG	11
☐ 42. Fred **Jackson**	BUF	8
☐ 43. Montee **Ball**	DEN	7
☐ 44. DeAngelo **Williams**	PIT	11
☐ 45. Jerick **McKinnon**	MIN	5
☐ 46. Theo **Riddick**	DET	9
☐ 47. Knile **Davis**	KC	9
☐ 48. Denard **Robinson**	JAC	8
☐ 49. Reggie **Bush**	SF	10
☐ 50. Lorenzo **Taliaferro**	BAL	9
☐ 51. James **White**	NE	4
☐ 52. Charles **Sims**	TB	6
☐ 53. Darren **Sproles**	PHI	8
☐ 54. Danny **Woodhead**	SD	10
☐ 55. Roy **Helu**	OAK	6
☐ 56. David **Cobb**	TEN	4
☐ 57. Branden **Oliver**	SD	10
☐ 58. David **Johnson**	ARI	9
☐ 59. Dan **Herron**	IND	10
☐ 60. Jay **Ajayi**	MIA	5
☐ 61. Alfred **Blue**	HOU	9
☐ 62. Stevan **Ridley**	NYJ	5
☐ 63. Cameron **Artis-Payne**	CAR	5
☐ 64. Duke **Johnson**	CLE	11
☐ 65. Ameer **Abdullah**	DET	9
☐ 66. Trent **Richardson**	OAK	6
☐ 67. Khiry **Robinson**	NO	11
☐ 68. Ahmad **Bradshaw**	FA	
☐ 69. Pierre **Thomas**	FA	
☐ 70. Jeremy **Langford**	CHI	7
☐ 71. Chris **Johnson**	FA	
☐ 72. Robert **Turbin**	SEA	9
☐ 73. James **Starks**	GB	7
☐ 74. Damien **Williams**	MIA	5
☐ 75. Javorius **Allen**	BAL	9
☐ 76. Mike **Tolbert**	CAR	5
☐ 77. Toby **Gerhart**	JAC	8
☐ 78. Travaris **Cadet**	NE	4
☐ 79. Matt **Jones**	WAS	8
☐ 80. Christine **Michael**	SEA	9

KICKERS	TEAM	BYE
☐ 1. Stephen **Gostkowski**	NE	4
☐ 2. Steven **Hauschka**	SEA	9
☐ 3. Justin **Tucker**	BAL	9
☐ 4. Adam **Vinatieri**	IND	10
☐ 5. Mason **Crosby**	GB	7
☐ 6. Dan **Bailey**	DAL	6
☐ 7. Cody **Parkey**	PHI	8
☐ 8. Connor **Barth**	DEN	7
☐ 9. Dan **Carpenter**	BUF	8
☐ 10. Caleb **Sturgis**	MIA	5
☐ 11. Matt **Bryant**	ATL	10
☐ 12. Nick **Folk**	NYJ	5
☐ 13. Randy **Bullock**	HOU	9
☐ 14. Matt **Prater**	DET	9
☐ 15. Shaun **Suisham**	PIT	10
☐ 16. Nick **Novak**	SD	10
☐ 17. Phil **Dawson**	SF	10
☐ 18. Chandler **Catanzaro**	ARI	9
☐ 19. Josh **Brown**	NYG	10
☐ 20. Greg **Zuerlein**	STL	6
☐ 21. Graham **Gano**	CAR	5
☐ 22. Blair **Walsh**	MIN	5

WIDE RECEIVERS	TEAM	BYE
☐ 1. Antonio **Brown**	PIT	11
☐ 2. Demaryius **Thomas**	DEN	7
☐ 3. Dez **Bryant**	DAL	6
☐ 4. Jordy **Nelson**	GB	7
☐ 5. Calvin **Johnson**	DET	9
☐ 6. Julio **Jones**	ATL	10
☐ 7. Odell **Beckham Jr.**	NYG	11
☐ 8. A.J. **Green**	CIN	7
☐ 9. Alshon **Jeffery**	CHI	7
☐ 10. Randall **Cobb**	GB	7
☐ 11. Mike **Evans**	TB	6
☐ 12. T.Y. **Hilton**	IND	10
☐ 13. DeAndre **Hopkins**	HOU	9
☐ 14. Kelvin **Benjamin**	CAR	5
☐ 15. Emmanuel **Sanders**	DEN	7
☐ 16. Golden **Tate**	DET	9
☐ 17. Julian **Edelman**	NE	4
☐ 18. Sammy **Watkins**	BUF	8
☐ 19. Brandin **Cooks**	NO	11
☐ 20. DeSean **Jackson**	WAS	8
☐ 21. Keenan **Allen**	SD	10
☐ 22. Jordan **Matthews**	PHI	8
☐ 23. Jeremy **Maclin**	KC	9
☐ 24. Mike **Wallace**	MIN	5
☐ 25. Jarvis **Landry**	MIA	5
☐ 26. Vincent **Jackson**	TB	6
☐ 27. Andre **Johnson**	IND	10
☐ 28. Amari **Cooper**	OAK	6
☐ 29. Brandon **Marshall**	NYJ	5
☐ 30. Torrey **Smith**	SF	10
☐ 31. Roddy **White**	ATL	10
☐ 32. Eric **Decker**	NYJ	5
☐ 33. Kevin **White**	CHI	7
☐ 34. Nelson **Agholor**	PHI	8
☐ 35. Martavis **Bryant**	PIT	11
☐ 36. Michael **Floyd**	ARI	9
☐ 37. Percy **Harvin**	BUF	8
☐ 38. Brandon **LaFell**	NE	4
☐ 39. Breshad **Perriman**	CLE	11
☐ 40. Charles **Johnson**	MIN	5
☐ 41. Larry **Fitzgerald**	ARI	9
☐ 42. Allen **Robinson**	JAC	8
☐ 43. Kenny **Stills**	MIA	5
☐ 44. Kendall **Wright**	TEN	4
☐ 45. Steve **Smith**	BAL	9
☐ 46. Anquan **Boldin**	SF	10
☐ 47. Marvin **Jones**	CIN	7
☐ 48. Davante **Adams**	GB	7
☐ 49. DeVante **Parker**	MIA	5
☐ 50. John **Brown**	ARI	9
☐ 51. Terrance **Williams**	DAL	6
☐ 52. Doug **Baldwin**	SEA	9
☐ 53. Rueben **Randle**	NYG	11
☐ 54. Donte **Moncrief**	IND	10
☐ 55. Cody **Latimer**	DEN	7
☐ 56. Malcom **Floyd**	SD	10
☐ 57. Pierre **Garçon**	WAS	8
☐ 58. Marques **Colston**	NO	11
☐ 59. Michael **Crabtree**	OAK	6
☐ 60. Jaelen **Strong**	HOU	9
☐ 61. Marqise **Lee**	JAC	8
☐ 62. Josh **Huff**	PHI	8
☐ 63. Dwayne **Bowe**	CLE	11
☐ 64. Dorial **Green-Beckham**	TEN	4
☐ 65. Kenny **Britt**	STL	6
☐ 66. Brian **Quick**	STL	6
☐ 67. Brian **Hartline**	CLE	11
☐ 68. Victor **Cruz**	NYG	11
☐ 69. Riley **Cooper**	PHI	8
☐ 70. Devin **Funchess**	CAR	5

TIGHT ENDS	TEAM	BYE
☐ 1. Rob **Gronkowski**	NE	4
☐ 2. Jimmy **Graham**	SEA	9
☐ 3. Travis **Kelce**	KC	9
☐ 4. Martellus **Bennett**	CHI	7
☐ 5. Greg **Olsen**	CAR	5
☐ 6. Julius **Thomas**	JAC	8
☐ 7. Antonio **Gates**	SD	10
☐ 8. Zach **Ertz**	PHI	8
☐ 9. Delanie **Walker**	TEN	4
☐ 10. Jason **Witten**	DAL	6
☐ 11. Dwayne **Allen**	IND	10
☐ 12. Jordan **Cameron**	MIA	5
☐ 13. Jordan **Reed**	WAS	8
☐ 14. Charles **Clay**	BUF	8
☐ 15. Josh **Hill**	NO	11
☐ 16. Owen **Daniels**	DEN	7
☐ 17. Kyle **Rudolph**	MIN	5
☐ 18. Austin **Seferian-Jenkins**	TB	6
☐ 19. Tyler **Eifert**	CIN	7
☐ 20. Larry **Donnell**	NYG	11
☐ 21. Coby **Fleener**	IND	10
☐ 22. Eric **Ebron**	DET	9
☐ 23. Vernon **Davis**	SF	10
☐ 24. Heath **Miller**	PIT	11
☐ 25. Jace **Amaro**	NYJ	5
☐ 26. Maxx **Williams**	BAL	9
☐ 27. Mychal **Rivera**	OAK	6
☐ 28. Richard **Rodgers**	GB	7
☐ 29. Virgil **Green**	DEN	7
☐ 30. Jared **Cook**	STL	6
☐ 31. Jacob **Tamme**	ATL	10
☐ 32. Ladarius **Green**	SD	10
☐ 33. Rob **Housler**	CLE	11
☐ 34. Scott **Chandler**	NE	4
☐ 35. Clive **Walford**	OAK	6
☐ 36. Andrew **Quarless**	GB	7

DEFENSE/ SPECIAL TEAMS	BYE
☐ 1. **Seahawks**	9
☐ 2. **Bills**	8
☐ 3. **Rams**	6
☐ 4. **Texans**	9
☐ 5. **Jets**	5
☐ 6. **Cardinals**	9
☐ 7. **Dolphins**	5
☐ 8. **Broncos**	7
☐ 9. **Chiefs**	9
☐ 10. **Packers**	7
☐ 11. **Ravens**	9
☐ 12. **Panthers**	5
☐ 13. **Bengals**	7
☐ 14. **Lions**	9
☐ 15. **Patriots**	4
☐ 16. **Steelers**	11
☐ 17. **Colts**	10
☐ 18. **Giants**	11
☐ 19. **49ers**	10
☐ 20. **Vikings**	5
☐ 21. **Buccaneers**	6
☐ 22. **Jaguars**	8
☐ 23. **Browns**	11
☐ 24. **Eagles**	8
☐ 25. **Cowboys**	6
☐ 26. **Chargers**	10
☐ 27. **Falcons**	10
☐ 28. **Saints**	11
☐ 29. **Raiders**	6
☐ 30. **Bears**	7
☐ 31. **Titans**	4
☐ 32. **Redskins**	8

Tom DiPace

WHO'S NUMBER 1?

Entering 2015, the race for the No. 1 overall pick appears to be as wide open as it has been in recent years, thanks in part to the suspension given to Pittsburgh's Le'Veon Bell, who led all non-quarterbacks in fantasy points. Is a loss of three games enough to knock Bell from consideration for the first pick? As you can see here, it certainly has made this conversation that much more interesting.

Le'Veon Bell for No. 1

A strong argument can be made for a couple of RBs at the No. 1 spot, but I have to go with Bell. Sure, the early suspension limits his value and will require a little patience from fantasy owners. However, the All-Pro finished second in the league with 1,361 rushing yards last season and ranked No. 2 among running backs by catching 83 passes. He also totaled 11 overall scores in 16 games.

While Bell is going to miss a couple of games, the third-year back is only getting better, and Pittsburgh's offensive line has improved significantly over the last few seasons. Additionally, the Steelers will have to lean on their offense even more in 2015, as the defense is still a unit in transition. Yes, the schedule is difficult, and Bell's suspension has to be taken into account. However, Bell might be the league's best all-around back, and the overall versatility is a huge bonus in PPR leagues. I'll take the risk on the suspension for an All-Pro RB entering the prime of his career with the opportunity to still play 13 games in 2015. — *Steven Lassan, Athlon Sports*

Jamaal Charles for No. 1

Looking at some of the top running backs from 2014, it's relatively easy to come to the conclusion that Charles should be the No. 1 overall pick again in 2015, much like I said last year. DeMarco Murray changed teams. Le'Veon Bell is automatically out a few games from suspension. Charles, meanwhile, runs behind an offensive line that is still jelling, and he was still able to rush for 5.0 yards per carry last season.

Charles also scored more total touchdowns (14) than any RB but Marshawn Lynch (17). Lynch is a year older than Charles, and he has 50 percent more career touches. Eddie Lacy might be the only option other than Charles. But I like Charles' gamebreaking ability better, and the Chiefs added some weapons in the passing game around him, which should keep defenses more honest.
— *David Gonos, SoCalledFantasyExperts.com*

Rob Gronkowski for No. 1

Gronkowski checks all the boxes for factors that could lead to his being selected No. 1 overall. If the tight end can only be used as such, he is head and shoulders above the rest of his position mates in the league, and you crush at the position. He was tops in targets (130) and yards (1,124) and tied for most touchdown receptions (12) among TEs last season. If a TE can be started as a flex, he's going to dominate that spot as well. He would have scored as either a top-10 RB or WR last season. PPR leagues only amplify his value. He was 21st in the entire league in catches, was tied for fourth in TD receptions, and was 15th in receiving yards. Simply put: Gronk. Scores. Points. — *Corby Yarbrough, Athlon Sports*

Eddie Lacy for No. 1

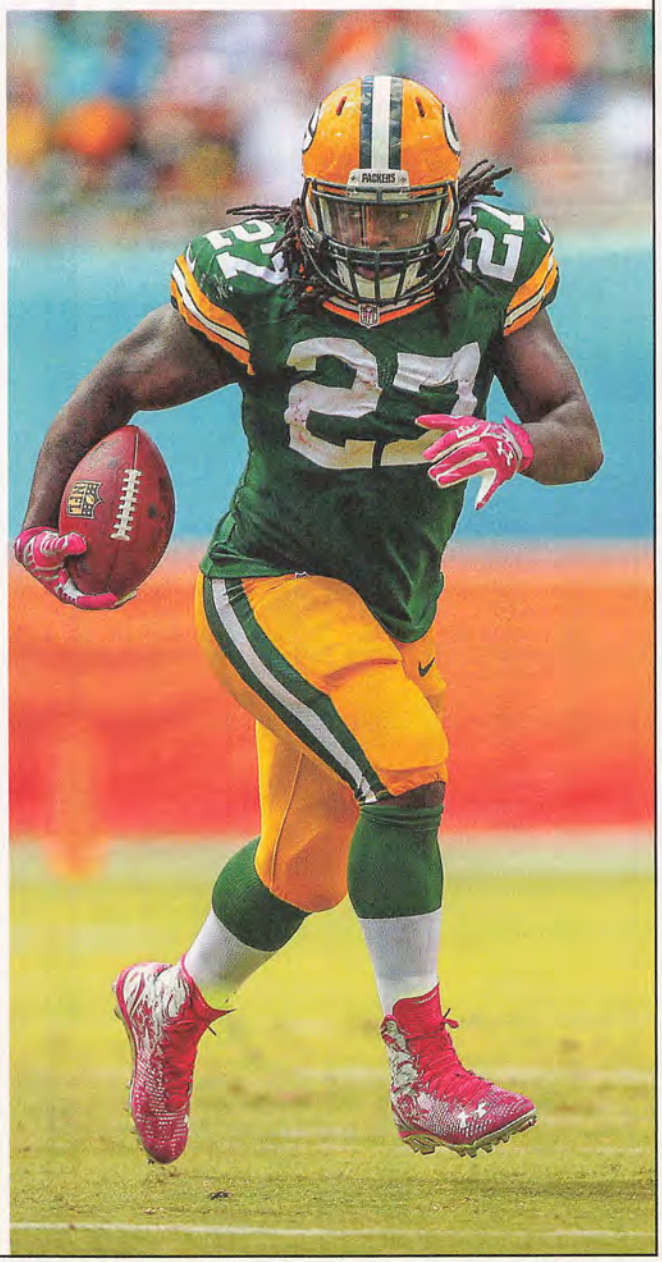
If not for the three games (I think it will end up being just two when all is said and done) that Le'Veon Bell will sit out at the beginning of the season, he would be my no-doubt No. 1. As it is, instead I'll go with Bell's 2013 draft classmate, Eddie Lacy. Last season, Lacy finished seventh in rushing with 1,139 yards. What's more important, however, is that he raised his yards per carry average from 4.1 as a rookie to 4.6 in 2014.

Lacy also improved upon his receiving numbers, reeling in 42 catches for 427 yards. His 13 total TDs were tied for fifth in the NFL, and only two backs (Marshawn Lynch, Jamaal Charles) had more. Since Bell won't be able to play a full season, I'll take my chances on another young, do-everything back entrenched in a lead role in an explosive offense. — *Mark Ross, Athlon Sports*

Marshawn Lynch for No. 1

This is the most wide-open race for No. 1 that I can remember. Every player in the conversation has massive upside, but all have question marks as well. Le'Veon Bell could miss as many as three games due to suspension. Jamaal Charles, Eddie Lacy, Arian Foster and DeMarco Murray have injury concerns. And there is too much depth and value to take a quarterback.

My debate falls to the most talented runner on the planet who also is extremely rested, Adrian Peterson, and the most durable player with the highest floor, Marshawn Lynch. I'll take Lynch over Peterson because he will be force-fed the ball as Seattle runs all of the tread off his tires over the next few seasons.
— *Braden Gall, Athlon Sports*



TOP 280 BIG BOARD

RK	PLAYER, TEAM	POS	BYE
1.	Le'Veon **Bell**, PIT	RB	11
2.	Eddie **Lacy**, GB	RB	7
3.	Jamaal **Charles**, KC	RB	9
4.	Matt **Forté**, CHI	RB	7
5.	Marshawn **Lynch**, SEA	RB	9
6.	LeSean **McCoy**, BUF	RB	8
7.	Arian **Foster**, HOU	RB	9
8.	Adrian **Peterson**, MIN	RB	5
9.	DeMarco **Murray**, PHI	RB	8
10.	Antonio **Brown**, PIT	WR	11
11.	C.J. **Anderson**, DEN	RB	7
12.	Jeremy **Hill**, CIN	RB	7
13.	Demaryius **Thomas**, DEN	WR	7
14.	Dez **Bryant**, DAL	WR	6
15.	Rob **Gronkowski**, NE	TE	4
16.	Jordy **Nelson**, GB	WR	7
17.	Calvin **Johnson**, DET	WR	9
18.	Julio **Jones**, ATL	WR	10
19.	Odell **Beckham Jr.**, NYG	WR	11
20.	Aaron **Rodgers**, GB	QB	7
21.	Andrew **Luck**, IND	QB	10
22.	A.J. **Green**, CIN	WR	7
23.	Alshon **Jeffery**, CHI	WR	7
24.	Mark **Ingram**, NO	RB	11
25.	Alfred **Morris**, WAS	RB	8
26.	Peyton **Manning**, DEN	QB	7
27.	Randall **Cobb**, GB	WR	7
28.	Mike **Evans**, TB	WR	6
29.	T.Y. **Hilton**, IND	WR	10
30.	Tom **Brady**, NE	QB	4
31.	Russell **Wilson**, SEA	QB	9
32.	Jonathan **Stewart**, CAR	RB	5
33.	Carlos **Hyde**, SF	RB	10
34.	DeAndre **Hopkins**, HOU	WR	9
35.	Kelvin **Benjamin**, CAR	WR	5
36.	Jimmy **Graham**, SEA	TE	9
37.	Lamar **Miller**, MIA	RB	5
38.	Justin **Forsett**, BAL	RB	9
39.	Emmanuel **Sanders**, DEN	WR	7
40.	Golden **Tate**, DET	WR	9
41.	Julian **Edelman**, NE	WR	4
42.	Frank **Gore**, IND	RB	10
43.	Melvin **Gordon**, SD	RB	10
44.	Joique **Bell**, DET	RB	9
45.	Latavius **Murray**, OAK	RB	6
46.	Drew **Brees**, NO	QB	11
47.	Ben **Roethlisberger**, PIT	QB	11
48.	Sammy **Watkins**, BUF	WR	8
49.	Brandin **Cooks**, NO	WR	11
50.	DeSean **Jackson**, WAS	WR	8
51.	Keenan **Allen**, SD	WR	10
52.	Matt **Ryan**, ATL	QB	10
53.	Jordan **Matthews**, PHI	WR	8
54.	Jeremy **Maclin**, KC	WR	9
55.	Mike **Wallace**, MIN	WR	5
56.	Todd **Gurley**, STL	RB	6
57.	Cam **Newton**, CAR	QB	5
58.	Andre **Ellington**, ARI	RB	9
59.	Tevin **Coleman**, ATL	RB	10
60.	T.J. **Yeldon**, JAC	RB	8
61.	Giovani **Bernard**, CIN	RB	7
62.	Chris **Ivory**, NYJ	RB	5
63.	Jarvis **Landry**, MIA	WR	5
64.	Travis **Kelce**, KC	TE	9
65.	Martellus **Bennett**, CHI	TE	7
66.	Doug **Martin**, TB	RB	6
67.	Rashad **Jennings**, NYG	RB	11
68.	LeGarrette **Blount**, NE	RB	4
69.	Tre **Mason**, STL	RB	6
70.	Vincent **Jackson**, TB	WR	6
71.	Andre **Johnson**, IND	WR	10
72.	Amari **Cooper**, OAK	WR	6
73.	Greg **Olsen**, CAR	TE	5
74.	Brandon **Marshall**, NYJ	WR	5
75.	Torrey **Smith**, SF	WR	10
76.	Roddy **White**, ATL	WR	10
77.	Matthew **Stafford**, DET	QB	9
78.	Tony **Romo**, DAL	QB	6
79.	Ryan **Tannehill**, MIA	QB	5
80.	Eric **Decker**, NYJ	WR	5
81.	Julius **Thomas**, JAC	TE	8
82.	Antonio **Gates**, SD	TE	10
83.	Kevin **White**, CHI	WR	7
84.	Nelson **Agholor**, PHI	WR	8
85.	Martavis **Bryant**, PIT	WR	11
86.	Michael **Floyd**, ARI	WR	9
87.	Zach **Ertz**, PHI	TE	8
88.	Delanie **Walker**, TEN	TE	4
89.	Darren **McFadden**, DAL	RB	6
90.	C.J. **Spiller**, NO	RB	11
91.	Isaiah **Crowell**, CLE	RB	11
92.	Devonta **Freeman**, ATL	RB	10
93.	Joseph **Randle**, DAL	RB	6
94.	Bishop **Sankey**, TEN	RB	4
95.	Percy **Harvin**, BUF	WR	8
96.	Brandon **LaFell**, NE	WR	4
97.	Philip **Rivers**, SD	QB	10
98.	Eli **Manning**, NYG	QB	11
99.	Ryan **Mathews**, PHI	RB	8
100.	Breshad **Perriman**, CLE	WR	11
101.	Charles **Johnson**, MIN	WR	5
102.	Larry **Fitzgerald**, ARI	WR	9
103.	Allen **Robinson**, JAC	WR	8
104.	Sam **Bradford**, PHI	QB	8
105.	Kenny **Stills**, MIA	WR	5
106.	Kendall **Wright**, TEN	WR	4
107.	Steve **Smith**, BAL	WR	9
108.	Anquan **Boldin**, SF	WR	10
109.	Marvin **Jones**, CIN	WR	7
110.	Colin **Kaepernick**, SF	QB	10
111.	Carson **Palmer**, ARI	QB	9
112.	Joe **Flacco**, BAL	QB	9
113.	Jay **Cutler**, CHI	QB	7
114.	Andy **Dalton**, CIN	QB	7
115.	Shane **Vereen**, NYG	RB	11
116.	Terrance **West**, CLE	RB	11
117.	Andre **Williams**, NYG	RB	11
118.	Teddy **Bridgewater**, MIN	QB	5
119.	Jason **Witten**, DAL	TE	6
120.	Dwayne **Allen**, IND	TE	10
121.	Jordan **Cameron**, MIA	TE	5
122.	Jordan **Reed**, WAS	TE	8
123.	Charles **Clay**, BUF	TE	8
124.	Fred **Jackson**, BUF	RB	8
125.	Montee **Ball**, DEN	RB	7
126.	DeAngelo **Williams**, PIT	RB	11
127.	Jerick **McKinnon**, MIN	RB	5
128.	**Seahawks**	DST	9
129.	Theo **Riddick**, DET	RB	9
130.	Robert **Griffin III**, WAS	QB	8
131.	Jameis **Winston**, TB	QB	6
132.	Davante **Adams**, GB	WR	7
133.	DeVante **Parker**, MIA	WR	5
134.	John **Brown**, ARI	WR	9
135.	Terrance **Williams**, DAL	WR	6
136.	**Bills**	DST	8
137.	**Rams**	DST	6
138.	Alex **Smith**, KC	QB	9
139.	Josh **Hill**, NO	TE	11
140.	Owen **Daniels**, DEN	TE	7
141.	Kyle **Rudolph**, MIN	TE	5
142.	Nick **Foles**, STL	QB	6
143.	Blake **Bortles**, JAC	QB	8
144.	Derek **Carr**, OAK	QB	6
145.	Doug **Baldwin**, SEA	WR	9
146.	Rueben **Randle**, NYG	WR	11
147.	Knile **Davis**, KC	RB	9
148.	Denard **Robinson**, JAC	RB	8
149.	Reggie **Bush**, SF	RB	10
150.	Lorenzo **Taliaferro**, BAL	RB	9
151.	Austin **Seferian-Jenkins**, TB	TE	6
152.	Tyler **Eifert**, CIN	TE	7
153.	Larry **Donnell**, NYG	TE	11
154.	**Texans**	DST	9
155.	**Jets**	DST	5
156.	Coby **Fleener**, IND	TE	10
157.	Eric **Ebron**, DET	TE	9
158.	Donte **Moncrief**, IND	WR	10
159.	Cody **Latimer**, DEN	WR	7
160.	Malcom **Floyd**, SD	WR	10
161.	Pierre **Garçon**, WAS	WR	8
162.	Marques **Colston**, NO	WR	11
163.	Michael **Crabtree**, OAK	WR	6
164.	**Cardinals**	DST	9
165.	**Dolphins**	DST	5
166.	Marcus **Mariota**, TEN	QB	4
167.	James **White**, NE	RB	4
168.	Charles **Sims**, TB	RB	6
169.	Darren **Sproles**, PHI	RB	8
170.	Danny **Woodhead**, SD	RB	10
171.	Roy **Helu**, OAK	RB	6
172.	Ryan **Fitzpatrick**, NYJ	QB	5
173.	**Broncos**	DST	7
174.	**Chiefs**	DST	9
175.	**Packers**	DST	7
176.	Jaelen **Strong**, HOU	WR	9
177.	Marqise **Lee**, JAC	WR	8
178.	Josh **Huff**, PHI	WR	8
179.	Dwayne **Bowe**, CLE	WR	11
180.	Dorial **Green-Beckham**, TEN	WR	4
181.	Kenny **Britt**, STL	WR	6
182.	Brian **Quick**, STL	WR	6
183.	Brian **Hartline**, CLE	WR	11
184.	Vernon **Davis**, SF	TE	10
185.	Heath **Miller**, PIT	TE	11
186.	**Ravens**	DST	9
187.	**Panthers**	DST	5
188.	David **Cobb**, TEN	RB	4
189.	Branden **Oliver**, SD	RB	10
190.	David **Johnson**, ARI	RB	9
191.	Dan **Herron**, IND	RB	10
192.	Victor **Cruz**, NYG	WR	11
193.	Riley **Cooper**, PHI	WR	8
194.	Jace **Amaro**, NYJ	TE	5
195.	Maxx **Williams**, BAL	TE	9
196.	Mychal **Rivera**, OAK	TE	6
197.	Richard **Rodgers**, GB	TE	7
198.	Virgil **Green**, DEN	TE	7
199.	Devin **Funchess**, CAR	WR	5
200.	Jermaine **Kearse**, SEA	WR	9
201.	Stephen **Gostkowski**, NE	K	4
202.	**Bengals**	DST	7
203.	Josh **McCown**, CLE	QB	11
204.	Ryan **Mallett**, HOU	QB	9
205.	Matt **Cassel**, BUF	QB	8
206.	Steven **Hauschka**, SEA	K	9
207.	Justin **Tucker**, BAL	K	9
208.	Justin **Hunter**, TEN	WR	4
209.	Mohamed **Sanu**, CIN	WR	7
210.	Cordarrelle **Patterson**, MIN	WR	5
211.	Jared **Cook**, STL	TE	6
212.	Jacob **Tamme**, ATL	TE	10
213.	Ladarius **Green**, SD	TE	10
214.	Rob **Housler**, CLE	TE	11
215.	Adam **Vinatieri**, IND	K	10
216.	Mason **Crosby**, GB	K	7
217.	Dan **Bailey**, DAL	K	6
218.	Cody **Parkey**, PHI	K	8
219.	Connor **Barth**, DEN	K	7
220.	Andrew **Hawkins**, CLE	WR	11
221.	Cecil **Shorts**, HOU	WR	9
222.	Stevie **Johnson**, SD	WR	10
223.	Jay **Ajayi**, MIA	RB	5
224.	Alfred **Blue**, HOU	RB	9
225.	Stevan **Ridley**, NYJ	RB	5
226.	Cameron **Artis-Payne**, CAR	RB	5
227.	Robert **Woods**, BUF	WR	8
228.	Markus **Wheaton**, PIT	WR	11
229.	Duke **Johnson**, CLE	RB	11
230.	Ameer **Abdullah**, DET	RB	9
231.	Phillip **Dorsett**, IND	WR	10
232.	Geno **Smith**, NYJ	QB	5
233.	Brian **Hoyer**, HOU	QB	9
234.	Tavon **Austin**, STL	WR	6
235.	Eddie **Royal**, CHI	WR	7
236.	Dan **Carpenter**, BUF	K	8
237.	Caleb **Sturgis**, MIA	K	5
238.	**Lions**	DST	9
239.	**Patriots**	DST	4
240.	**Steelers**	DST	11
241.	Trent **Richardson**, OAK	RB	6
242.	Khiry **Robinson**, NO	RB	11
243.	Scott **Chandler**, NE	TE	4
244.	Matt **Bryant**, ATL	K	10
245.	EJ **Manuel**, BUF	QB	8
246.	Johnny **Manziel**, CLE	QB	11
247.	Rod **Streater**, OAK	WR	6
248.	Justin **Hardy**, ATL	WR	10
249.	Devin **Smith**, NYJ	WR	5
250.	Nick **Folk**, NYJ	K	5
251.	Randy **Bullock**, HOU	K	9
252.	Zach **Mettenberger**, TEN	QB	4
253.	Ahmad **Bradshaw**, FA	RB	
254.	Pierre **Thomas**, FA	RB	
255.	Greg **Jennings**, MIA	WR	5
256.	Jerricho **Cotchery**, CAR	WR	5
257.	Mark **Sanchez**, PHI	QB	8
258.	Jimmy **Clausen**, CHI	QB	7
259.	Jeremy **Langford**, CHI	RB	7
260.	Matt **Prater**, DET	K	9
261.	Shaun **Suisham**, PIT	K	10
262.	Chris **Johnson**, FA	RB	
263.	Robert **Turbin**, SEA	RB	9
264.	James **Starks**, GB	RB	7
265.	Clive **Walford**, OAK	TE	6
266.	Andrew **Quarless**, GB	TE	7
267.	Garrett **Graham**, HOU	TE	9
268.	Andre **Roberts**, WAS	WR	8
269.	Danny **Amendola**, NE	WR	4
270.	Jason **Avant**, KC	WR	9
271.	Damien **Williams**, MIA	RB	5
272.	Javorius **Allen**, BAL	RB	9
273.	Mike **Tolbert**, CAR	RB	5
274.	Toby **Gerhart**, JAC	RB	8
275.	Tyrod **Taylor**, BUF	QB	8
276.	Chad **Henne**, JAC	QB	8
277.	Kirk **Cousins**, WAS	QB	8
278.	Case **Keenum**, STL	QB	6
279.	Travaris **Cadet**, NE	RB	4
280.	Matt **Jones**, WAS	RB	8

TOP 240 with IDPs

RK	PLAYER, TEAM	POS	BYE
1.	Le'Veon **Bell**, PIT	RB	11
2.	Eddie **Lacy**, GB	RB	7
3.	Jamaal **Charles**, KC	RB	9
4.	Matt **Forté**, CHI	RB	7
5.	Marshawn **Lynch**, SEA	RB	9
6.	LeSean **McCoy**, BUF	RB	8
7.	Arian **Foster**, HOU	RB	9
8.	Adrian **Peterson**, MIN	RB	5
9.	DeMarco **Murray**, PHI	RB	8
10.	Antonio **Brown**, PIT	WR	11
11.	C.J. **Anderson**, DEN	RB	7
12.	Jeremy **Hill**, CIN	RB	7
13.	Demaryius **Thomas**, DEN	WR	7
14.	Dez **Bryant**, DAL	WR	6
15.	Rob **Gronkowski**, NE	TE	4
16.	Jordy **Nelson**, GB	WR	7
17.	Calvin **Johnson**, DET	WR	9
18.	Julio **Jones**, ATL	WR	10
19.	Odell **Beckham** Jr., NYG	WR	11
20.	Aaron **Rodgers**, GB	QB	7
21.	Andrew **Luck**, IND	QB	10
22.	A.J. **Green**, CIN	WR	7
23.	Alshon **Jeffery**, CHI	WR	7
24.	Mark **Ingram**, NO	RB	11
25.	Alfred **Morris**, WAS	RB	8
26.	Peyton **Manning**, DEN	QB	7
27.	Randall **Cobb**, GB	WR	7
28.	Mike **Evans**, TB	WR	6
29.	T.Y. **Hilton**, IND	WR	10
30.	Tom **Brady**, NE	QB	4
31.	Russell **Wilson**, SEA	QB	9
32.	Jonathan **Stewart**, CAR	RB	5
33.	Carlos **Hyde**, SF	RB	10
34.	DeAndre **Hopkins**, HOU	WR	9
35.	Kelvin **Benjamin**, CAR	WR	5
36.	Jimmy **Graham**, SEA	TE	9
37.	Lamar **Miller**, MIA	RB	5
38.	Justin **Forsett**, BAL	RB	9
39.	Emmanuel **Sanders**, DEN	WR	7
40.	Golden **Tate**, DET	WR	9
41.	Julian **Edelman**, NE	WR	4
42.	Frank **Gore**, IND	RB	10
43.	Melvin **Gordon**, SD	RB	10
44.	Joique **Bell**, DET	RB	9
45.	Latavius **Murray**, OAK	RB	6
46.	Drew **Brees**, NO	QB	11
47.	Ben **Roethlisberger**, PIT	QB	11
48.	Sammy **Watkins**, BUF	WR	8
49.	Brandin **Cooks**, NO	WR	11
50.	DeSean **Jackson**, WAS	WR	8
51.	Keenan **Allen**, SD	WR	10
52.	Matt **Ryan**, ATL	QB	10
53.	Jordan **Matthews**, PHI	WR	8
54.	Jeremy **Maclin**, KC	WR	9
55.	Mike **Wallace**, MIN	WR	5
56.	Todd **Gurley**, STL	RB	6
57.	Cam **Newton**, CAR	QB	5
58.	Andre **Ellington**, ARI	RB	9
59.	Tevin **Coleman**, ATL	RB	10
60.	T.J. **Yeldon**, JAC	RB	8
61.	Giovani **Bernard**, CIN	RB	7
62.	Chris **Ivory**, NYJ	RB	5
63.	Jarvis **Landry**, MIA	WR	5
64.	Travis **Kelce**, KC	TE	9
65.	Martellus **Bennett**, CHI	TE	7
66.	Doug **Martin**, TB	RB	6
67.	Rashad **Jennings**, NYG	RB	11
68.	LeGarrette **Blount**, NE	RB	4
69.	Tre **Mason**, STL	RB	6
70.	Vincent **Jackson**, TB	WR	6
71.	Andre **Johnson**, IND	WR	10
72.	Amari **Cooper**, OAK	WR	6
73.	Greg **Olsen**, CAR	TE	5
74.	Brandon **Marshall**, NYJ	WR	5
75.	Torrey **Smith**, SF	WR	10
76.	Roddy **White**, ATL	WR	10
77.	Matthew **Stafford**, DET	QB	9
78.	Tony **Romo**, DAL	QB	6
79.	Ryan **Tannehill**, MIA	QB	5
80.	J.J. **Watt**, HOU	DL	9
81.	Eric **Decker**, NYJ	WR	5
82.	Julius **Thomas**, JAC	TE	8
83.	Antonio **Gates**, SD	TE	10
84.	Kevin **White**, CHI	WR	7
85.	Nelson **Agholor**, PHI	WR	8
86.	Martavis **Bryant**, PIT	WR	11
87.	Michael **Floyd**, ARI	WR	9
88.	Zach **Ertz**, PHI	TE	8
89.	Delanie **Walker**, TEN	TE	4
90.	Darren **McFadden**, DAL	RB	6
91.	C.J. **Spiller**, NO	RB	11
92.	Isaiah **Crowell**, CLE	RB	11
93.	Devonta **Freeman**, ATL	RB	10
94.	Joseph **Randle**, DAL	RB	6
95.	Bishop **Sankey**, TEN	RB	4
96.	Luke **Kuechly**, CAR	LB	5
97.	Lavonte **David**, TB	LB	6
98.	Percy **Harvin**, BUF	WR	8
99.	Brandon **LaFell**, NE	WR	4
100.	Philip **Rivers**, SD	QB	10
101.	Eli **Manning**, NYG	QB	11
102.	Ryan **Mathews**, PHI	RB	8
103.	DeAndre **Levy**, DET	LB	9
104.	Bobby **Wagner**, SEA	LB	9
105.	Breshad **Perriman**, CLE	WR	11
106.	Charles **Johnson**, MIN	WR	5
107.	Larry **Fitzgerald**, ARI	WR	9
108.	Allen **Robinson**, JAC	WR	8
109.	Sam **Bradford**, PHI	QB	8
110.	Robert **Quinn**, STL	DL	6
111.	Chandler **Jones**, NE	DL	4
112.	Kenny **Stills**, MIA	WR	5
113.	Kendall **Wright**, TEN	WR	4
114.	Steve **Smith**, BAL	WR	9
115.	Anquan **Boldin**, SF	WR	10
116.	Marvin **Jones**, CIN	WR	7
117.	Colin **Kaepernick**, SF	QB	10
118.	Carson **Palmer**, ARI	QB	9
119.	Joe **Flacco**, BAL	QB	9
120.	Jay **Cutler**, CHI	QB	7
121.	Andy **Dalton**, CIN	QB	7
122.	C.J. **Mosley**, BAL	LB	9
123.	Mychal **Kendricks**, PHI	LB	8
124.	NaVorro **Bowman**, SF	LB	10
125.	Paul **Worrilow**, ATL	LB	10
126.	Shane **Vereen**, NYG	RB	11
127.	Terrance **West**, CLE	RB	11
128.	Andre **Williams**, NYG	RB	11
129.	Teddy **Bridgewater**, MIN	QB	5
130.	Jason **Pierre-Paul**, NYG	DL	11
131.	Jason **Witten**, DAL	TE	6
132.	Dwayne **Allen**, IND	TE	10
133.	Jordan **Cameron**, MIA	TE	5
134.	Jordan **Reed**, WAS	TE	8
135.	Charles **Clay**, BUF	TE	8
136.	Jamie **Collins**, NE	LB	4
137.	Fred **Jackson**, BUF	RB	8
138.	Montee **Ball**, DEN	RB	7
139.	DeAngelo **Williams**, PIT	RB	11
140.	Jerick **McKinnon**, MIN	RB	5
141.	**Seahawks**	DST	9
142.	Cameron **Wake**, MIA	DL	5
143.	Theo **Riddick**, DET	RB	9
144.	Robert **Griffin III**, WAS	QB	8
145.	Jameis **Winston**, TB	QB	6
146.	Alec **Ogletree**, STL	LB	6
147.	Kiko **Alonso**, PHI	LB	8
148.	Davante **Adams**, GB	WR	7
149.	DeVante **Parker**, MIA	WR	5
150.	John **Brown**, ARI	WR	9
151.	Terrance **Williams**, DAL	WR	6
152.	**Bills**	DST	8
153.	**Rams**	DST	6
154.	Calais **Campbell**, ARI	DL	9
155.	Everson **Griffen**, MIN	DL	5
156.	Muhammad **Wilkerson**, NYJ	DL	5
157.	Alex **Smith**, KC	QB	9
158.	Josh **Hill**, NO	TE	11
159.	Owen **Daniels**, DEN	TE	7
160.	Kyle **Rudolph**, MIN	TE	5
161.	Paul **Posluszny**, JAC	LB	8
162.	Harrison **Smith**, MIN	DB	5
163.	Nick **Foles**, STL	QB	6
164.	Blake **Bortles**, JAC	QB	8
165.	Derek **Carr**, OAK	QB	6
166.	Mario **Williams**, BUF	DL	8
167.	Morgan **Burnett**, GB	DB	7
168.	Carlos **Dunlap**, CIN	DL	7
169.	Eric **Weddle**, SD	DB	10
170.	Doug **Baldwin**, SEA	WR	9
171.	Rueben **Randle**, NYG	WR	11
172.	Derrick **Johnson**, KC	LB	9
173.	Lawrence **Timmons**, PIT	LB	11
174.	Karlos **Dansby**, CLE	LB	11
175.	Jerod **Mayo**, NE	LB	4
176.	Brandon **Marshall**, DEN	LB	7
177.	James **Laurinaitis**, STL	LB	6
178.	Curtis **Lofton**, OAK	LB	6
179.	Knile **Davis**, KC	RB	9
180.	Denard **Robinson**, JAC	RB	8
181.	Reggie **Bush**, SF	RB	10
182.	Lorenzo **Taliaferro**, BAL	RB	9
183.	Austin **Seferian-Jenkins**, TB	TE	6
184.	Tyler **Eifert**, CIN	TE	7
185.	Larry **Donnell**, NYG	TE	11
186.	**Texans**	DST	9
187.	**Jets**	DST	5
188.	Ezekiel **Ansah**, DET	DL	9
189.	Rob **Ninkovich**, NE	DL	4
190.	Coby **Fleener**, IND	TE	10
191.	Eric **Ebron**, DET	TE	9
192.	Donte **Moncrief**, IND	WR	10
193.	Cody **Latimer**, DEN	WR	7
194.	Malcom **Floyd**, SD	WR	10
195.	Pierre **Garçon**, WAS	WR	8
196.	Marques **Colston**, NO	WR	11
197.	Michael **Crabtree**, OAK	WR	6
198.	**Cardinals**	DST	9
199.	**Dolphins**	DST	5
200.	Johnathan **Cyprien**, JAC	DB	8
201.	D'Qwell **Jackson**, IND	LB	10
202.	Reshad **Jones**, MIA	DB	5
203.	Marcus **Mariota**, TEN	QB	4
204.	Jerry **Hughes**, BUF	DL	8
205.	Sheldon **Richardson**, NYJ	DL	5
206.	James **White**, NE	RB	4
207.	Charles **Sims**, TB	RB	6
208.	Darren **Sproles**, PHI	RB	8
209.	Danny **Woodhead**, SD	RB	10
210.	Roy **Helu**, OAK	RB	6
211.	Vontaze **Burfict**, CIN	LB	7
212.	Von **Miller**, DEN	LB	7
213.	Ryan **Fitzpatrick**, NYJ	QB	5
214.	**Broncos**	DST	7
215.	**Chiefs**	DST	9
216.	**Packers**	DST	7
217.	Jaelen **Strong**, HOU	WR	9
218.	Marqise **Lee**, JAC	WR	8
219.	Josh **Huff**, PHI	WR	8
220.	Barry **Church**, DAL	DB	6
221.	Aaron **Donald**, STL	DL	6
222.	Dwayne **Bowe**, CLE	WR	11
223.	Dorial **Green-Beckham**, TEN	WR	4
224.	Kenny **Britt**, STL	WR	6
225.	Brian **Quick**, STL	WR	6
226.	Brian **Hartline**, CLE	WR	11
227.	Antrel **Rolle**, CHI	DB	7
228.	Charles **Woodson**, OAK	DB	6
229.	T.J. **McDonald**, STL	DB	6
230.	Ndamukong **Suh**, MIA	DL	5
231.	Vernon **Davis**, SF	TE	10
232.	Heath **Miller**, PIT	TE	11
233.	**Ravens**	DST	9
234.	**Panthers**	DST	5
235.	David **Cobb**, TEN	RB	4
236.	Branden **Oliver**, SD	RB	10
237.	David **Johnson**, ARI	RB	9
238.	Dan **Herron**, IND	RB	10
239.	Victor **Cruz**, NYG	WR	11
240.	Riley **Cooper**, PHI	WR	8

TOP 65 IDPs

RK	PLAYER, TEAM	POS	BYE
1.	J.J. **Watt**, HOU	DL	9
2.	Luke **Kuechly**, CAR	LB	5
3.	Lavonte **David**, TB	LB	6
4.	DeAndre **Levy**, DET	LB	9
5.	Bobby **Wagner**, SEA	LB	9
6.	Robert **Quinn**, STL	DL	6
7.	Chandler **Jones**, NE	DL	4
8.	C.J. **Mosley**, BAL	LB	9
9.	Mychal **Kendricks**, PHI	LB	8
10.	NaVorro **Bowman**, SF	LB	10
11.	Paul **Worrilow**, ATL	LB	10
12.	Jason **Pierre-Paul**, NYG	DL	11
13.	Jamie **Collins**, NE	LB	4
14.	Cameron **Wake**, MIA	DL	5
15.	Alec **Ogletree**, STL	LB	6
16.	Kiko **Alonso**, PHI	LB	8
17.	Calais **Campbell**, ARI	DL	9
18.	Everson **Griffen**, MIN	DL	5
19.	Muhammad **Wilkerson**, NYJ	DL	5
20.	Paul **Posluszny**, JAC	LB	8
21.	Harrison **Smith**, MIN	DB	5
22.	Mario **Williams**, BUF	DL	8
23.	Morgan **Burnett**, GB	DB	7
24.	Carlos **Dunlap**, CIN	DL	7
25.	Eric **Weddle**, SD	DB	10
26.	Derrick **Johnson**, KC	LB	9
27.	Lawrence **Timmons**, PIT	LB	11
28.	Karlos **Dansby**, CLE	LB	11
29.	Jerod **Mayo**, NE	LB	4
30.	Brandon **Marshall**, DEN	LB	7
31.	James **Laurinaitis**, STL	LB	6
32.	Curtis **Lofton**, OAK	LB	6
33.	Ezekiel **Ansah**, DET	DL	9
34.	Rob **Ninkovich**, NE	DL	4
35.	Johnathan **Cyprien**, JAC	DB	8
36.	D'Qwell **Jackson**, IND	LB	10
37.	Reshad **Jones**, MIA	DB	5
38.	Jerry **Hughes**, BUF	DL	8
39.	Sheldon **Richardson**, NYJ	DL	5
40.	Vontaze **Burfict**, CIN	LB	7
41.	Von **Miller**, DEN	LB	7
42.	Barry **Church**, DAL	DB	6
43.	Aaron **Donald**, STL	DL	6
44.	Antrel **Rolle**, CHI	DB	7
45.	Charles **Woodson**, OAK	DB	6
46.	T.J. **McDonald**, STL	DB	6
47.	Ndamukong **Suh**, MIA	DL	5
48.	Jelani **Jenkins**, MIA	LB	5
49.	Keenan **Robinson**, WAS	LB	8
50.	Sean **Lee**, DAL	LB	6
51.	DeMarcus **Ware**, DEN	DL	7
52.	Justin **Houston**, KC	LB	9
53.	Tyvon **Branch**, KC	DB	9
54.	Telvin **Smith**, JAC	LB	8
55.	Khalil **Mack**, OAK	LB	6
56.	Nigel **Bradham**, BUF	LB	8
57.	Jerrell **Freeman**, IND	LB	10
58.	Kam **Chancellor**, SEA	DB	9
59.	Ha Ha **Clinton-Dix**, GB	DB	7
60.	Earl **Thomas**, SEA	DB	9
61.	Daryl **Smith**, BAL	LB	9
62.	Chad **Greenway**, MIN	LB	5
63.	Danny **Trevathan**, DEN	LB	7
64.	Ryan **Shazier**, PIT	LB	11
65.	Clay **Matthews**, GB	LB	7

2015 QB RANKINGS

QUARTERBACKS	TEAM	BYE
☐ 1. Aaron **Rodgers**	GB	7
☐ 2. Andrew **Luck**	IND	10
☐ 3. Peyton **Manning**	DEN	7
☐ 4. Tom **Brady**	NE	4
☐ 5. Russell **Wilson**	SEA	9
☐ 6. Drew **Brees**	NO	11
☐ 7. Ben **Roethlisberger**	PIT	11
☐ 8. Matt **Ryan**	ATL	10
☐ 9. Cam **Newton**	CAR	5
☐ 10. Matthew **Stafford**	DET	9
☐ 11. Tony **Romo**	DAL	6
☐ 12. Ryan **Tannehill**	MIA	5
☐ 13. Philip **Rivers**	SD	10
☐ 14. Eli **Manning**	NYG	11
☐ 15. Sam **Bradford**	PHI	8
☐ 16. Colin **Kaepernick**	SF	10
☐ 17. Carson **Palmer**	ARI	9
☐ 18. Joe **Flacco**	BAL	9
☐ 19. Jay **Cutler**	CHI	7
☐ 20. Andy **Dalton**	CIN	7
☐ 21. Teddy **Bridgewater**	MIN	5
☐ 22. Robert **Griffin III**	WAS	8
☐ 23. Jameis **Winston**	TB	6
☐ 24. Alex **Smith**	KC	9
☐ 25. Nick **Foles**	STL	6
☐ 26. Blake **Bortles**	JAC	8
☐ 27. Derek **Carr**	OAK	6
☐ 28. Marcus **Mariota**	TEN	4
☐ 29. Ryan **Fitzpatrick**	NYJ	5
☐ 30. Josh **McCown**	CLE	11
☐ 31. Ryan **Mallett**	HOU	9
☐ 32. Matt **Cassel**	BUF	8
☐ 33. Geno **Smith**	NYJ	5
☐ 34. Brian **Hoyer**	HOU	9
☐ 35. EJ **Manuel**	BUF	8
☐ 36. Johnny **Manziel**	CLE	11
☐ 37. Zach **Mettenberger**	TEN	4
☐ 38. Mark **Sanchez**	PHI	8
☐ 39. Jimmy **Clausen**	CHI	7
☐ 40. Tyrod **Taylor**	BUF	8
☐ 41. Chad **Henne**	JAC	8
☐ 42. Kirk **Cousins**	WAS	8
☐ 43. Case **Keenum**	STL	6
☐ 44. Drew **Stanton**	ARI	9
☐ 45. Matt **Schaub**	BAL	9
☐ 46. Brock **Osweiler**	DEN	7
☐ 47. Jimmy **Garoppolo**	NE	4
☐ 48. Scott **Tolzien**	GB	7
☐ 49. Bryce **Petty**	NYJ	5
☐ 50. Garrett **Grayson**	NO	11

AVERAGE DEPTH OF THROW

By Mike Clay, Pro Football Focus Fantasy Managing Editor @MikeClayNFL

At Pro Football Focus, our game analysts are constantly creating new statistical categories in hopes of maximizing the viewing public's understanding of the game. Back in 2007, we began tracking the depth of each pass. When examining quarterback tendencies, many will refer to yards per attempt, but it's important to realize that "YPA" can be severely distorted by completion percentage and YAC (yards after catch). This is where Average Depth of Throw (aDOT) comes into play. Proven to be significantly more predictable on a year-to-year basis, aDOT tracks only the distance downfield each pass travels before it is complete, incomplete or intercepted. Quarterbacks with high aDOT marks generally take more chances, which will lead to more of the coveted big plays, but also to a lower completion rate and additional interceptions. Quarterbacks with lower aDOT tendencies are more conservative, settling for short completions while avoiding costly turnovers.

Shown here are the aDOT marks for each quarterback who dropped back to pass at least 200 times during the 2014 season. To maximize our sample size, we include playoff data.

Rk	Quarterback	Team	DB	aDOT
1.	Drew Stanton	ARI	262	11.7
2.	Mike Glennon	TB	225	11.6
3.	Brian Hoyer	CLE	472	10.8
4.	Charlie Whitehurst	TEN	216	10.7
5.	Josh McCown	TB	382	10.7
6.	Nick Foles	PHI	328	10.3
7.	Cam Newton	CAR	594	9.8
8.	Colin Kaepernick	SF	577	9.5
9.	Tony Romo	DAL	535	9.5
10.	Joe Flacco	BAL	660	9.2
11.	Andrew Luck	IND	807	9.2
12.	Carson Palmer	ARI	237	9.2
13.	Eli Manning	NYG	635	9.2
14.	Ben Roethlisberger	PIT	699	9.1
15.	Ryan Fitzpatrick	HOU	365	9.1
16.	Russell Wilson	SEA	634	9.0
17.	Kirk Cousins	WAS	213	9.0
18.	Philip Rivers	SD	626	9.0
19.	Peyton Manning	DEN	662	9.0
20.	Mark Sanchez	PHI	343	8.8
21.	Austin Davis	STL	320	8.7
22.	Geno Smith	NYJ	426	8.6
23.	Aaron Rodgers	GB	650	8.6
24.	Derek Carr	OAK	635	8.5
25.	Tom Brady	NE	754	8.3
26.	Shaun Hill	STL	250	8.3
27.	Matt Ryan	ATL	683	8.2
28.	Ryan Tannehill	MIA	644	8.2
29.	Matthew Stafford	DET	710	8.2
30.	Drew Brees	NO	702	8.1
31.	Andy Dalton	CIN	562	8.1
32.	Teddy Bridgewater	MIN	474	7.9
33.	Jay Cutler	CHI	618	7.7
34.	Kyle Orton	BUF	484	7.5
35.	Blake Bortles	JAC	550	7.4
36.	Robert Griffin III	WAS	265	7.0
37.	Alex Smith	KC	545	6.0

TOP 10 INJURY CONCERNS

1. Sam Bradford, PHI Where to begin with Bradford? The new Eagles starter missed the last nine games of 2013 with a torn ACL and all of 2014 after re-tearing the same ACL in the preseason. He defines brittle.

2. Robert Griffin III, WAS He's been hurt all three of his pro seasons. After missing seven games early in the season last fall, Griffin returned to start four of the Redskins' final seven games. However, until he learns to protect his body, he will always be a huge injury risk.

3. Tony Romo, DAL Until he retires, Romo's back will always be a concern for fantasy owners. He's missed just one game in each of the last two seasons and he has an elite offensive line, but he's also 35 years old and losing mobility by the day.

4. Carson Palmer, ARI Major knee issues have plagued Palmer on more than one occasion in his career. He will be 36 in late December and is coming off another torn ACL. How much longer can his knees hold up under a massive 6'5", 235-pound frame?

5. Peyton Manning, DEN There just aren't that many productive 39-year-old quarterbacks in the NFL record books. A torn quad sabotaged his performance late last year, and there will always be concerns about the neck injury that drove him from Indianapolis.

6. Philip Rivers, SD The ironman from NC State hasn't missed a start in nine seasons but suffered from rib and back problems late last season. He's 33 years old, and the Chargers were clearly shopping him this offseason.

7. Cam Newton, CAR Pop in a tape of the playoffs last year and it was clear to see Newton was hurting. He missed two games last fall, and his physical style of play could be reason for concern the rest of his career. After all, he's not exactly a pocket passer.

8. Jay Cutler, CHI The Bears' signal caller is persona non grata in Chicago. He turned 32 in the spring and hasn't played 16 games in a season since 2009. There are a lot of risks involved with drafting Cutler.

9. Alex Smith, KC In two-quarterback leagues, Smith is probably a weekly starter, and that means dealing with one of the more injury-prone QBs in the NFL. He's played in 16 games just twice in his nine-year career.

10. Ben Roethlisberger, PIT Few players take as many hits as Big Ben — which is bad news for a player who is slowly losing his mobility. He bounced back and started all 16 games the last two years, but he has taken 75 sacks over that span and is 33 years old. He's played in all 16 games just three times in his 11-year career.

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2015 RB RANKINGS

RUNNING BACKS	TEAM	BYE
☐ 1. Le'Veon **Bell**	PIT	11
☐ 2. Eddie **Lacy**	GB	7
☐ 3. Jamaal **Charles**	KC	9
☐ 4. Matt **Forté**	CHI	7
☐ 5. Marshawn **Lynch**	SEA	9
☐ 6. LeSean **McCoy**	BUF	8
☐ 7. Arian **Foster**	HOU	9
☐ 8. Adrian **Peterson**	MIN	5
☐ 9. DeMarco **Murray**	PHI	8
☐ 10. C.J. **Anderson**	DEN	7
☐ 11. Jeremy **Hill**	CIN	7
☐ 12. Mark **Ingram**	NO	11
☐ 13. Alfred **Morris**	WAS	8
☐ 14. Jonathan **Stewart**	CAR	5
☐ 15. Carlos **Hyde**	SF	10
☐ 16 Lamar **Miller**	MIA	5
☐ 17. Justin **Forsett**	BAL	9
☐ 18 Frank **Gore**	IND	10
☐ 19. Melvin **Gordon**	SD	10
☐ 20. Joique **Bell**	DET	9
☐ 21. Latavius **Murray**	OAK	6
☐ 22. Todd **Gurley**	STL	6
☐ 23. Andre **Ellington**	ARI	9
☐ 24. Tevin **Coleman**	ATL	10
☐ 25. T.J. **Yeldon**	JAC	8
☐ 26. Giovani **Bernard**	CIN	7
☐ 27. Chris **Ivory**	NYJ	5
☐ 28. Doug **Martin**	TB	6
☐ 29. Rashad **Jennings**	NYG	11
☐ 30. LeGarrette **Blount**	NE	4
☐ 31. Tre **Mason**	STL	6
☐ 32. Darren **McFadden**	DAL	6
☐ 33. C.J. **Spiller**	NO	11
☐ 34. Isaiah **Crowell**	CLE	11
☐ 35. Devonta **Freeman**	ATL	10
☐ 36. Joseph **Randle**	DAL	6
☐ 37 Bishop **Sankey**	TEN	4
☐ 38. Ryan **Mathews**	PHI	8
☐ 39. Shane **Vereen**	NYG	11
☐ 40 Terrance **West**	CLE	11
☐ 41. Andre **Williams**	NYG	11
☐ 42. Fred **Jackson**	BUF	8
☐ 43. Montee **Ball**	DEN	7
☐ 44. DeAngelo **Williams**	PIT	11
☐ 45. Jerick **McKinnon**	MIN	5
☐ 46. Theo **Riddick**	DET	9

RUNNING BACKS	TEAM	BYE
☐ 47. Knile **Davis**	KC	9
☐ 48. Denard **Robinson**	JAC	8
☐ 49. Reggie **Bush**	SF	10
☐ 50. Lorenzo **Taliaferro**	BAL	9
☐ 51. James **White**	NE	4
☐ 52. Charles **Sims**	TB	6
☐ 53. Darren **Sproles**	PHI	8
☐ 54. Danny **Woodhead**	SD	10
☐ 55. Roy **Helu**	OAK	6
☐ 56. David **Cobb**	TEN	4
☐ 57. Branden **Oliver**	SD	10
☐ 58. David **Johnson**	ARI	9
☐ 59. Dan **Herron**	IND	10
☐ 60. Jay **Ajayi**	MIA	5
☐ 61. Alfred **Blue**	HOU	9
☐ 62. Stevan **Ridley**	NYJ	5
☐ 63. Cameron **Artis-Payne**	CAR	5
☐ 64. Duke **Johnson**	CLE	11
☐ 65. Ameer **Abdullah**	DET	9
☐ 66. Trent **Richardson**	OAK	6
☐ 67. Khiry **Robinson**	NO	11
☐ 68. Ahmad **Bradshaw**	FA	
☐ 69. Pierre **Thomas**	FA	
☐ 70. Jeremy **Langford**	CHI	7
☐ 71. Chris **Johnson**	FA	
☐ 72. Robert **Turbin**	SEA	9
☐ 73. James **Starks**	GB	7
☐ 74. Damien **Williams**	MIA	5
☐ 75. Javorius **Allen**	BAL	9
☐ 76. Mike **Tolbert**	CAR	5
☐ 77. Toby **Gerhart**	JAC	8
☐ 78. Travaris **Cadet**	NE	4
☐ 79. Matt **Jones**	WAS	8
☐ 80. Christine **Michael**	SEA	9
☐ 81. Lance **Dunbar**	DAL	6
☐ 82. Dexter **McCluster**	TEN	4
☐ 83. Jacquizz **Rodgers**	CHI	7
☐ 84. Bernard **Pierce**	JAC	8
☐ 85. Ka'Deem **Carey**	CHI	7
☐ 86. Donald **Brown**	SD	10
☐87.Bobby **Rainey**	TB	6
☐ 88. Stepfan **Taylor**	ARI	9
☐ 89. Kendall **Hunter**	SF	10
☐ 90. Marcel **Reece**	OAK	6

TOP 10 INJURY CONCERNS

1. Adrian Peterson, MIN The Vikings' ball carrier should be well-rested after missing all but one game last year due to suspension. Did it extend his career? Possibly. But he's now in his 30s and has touched the ball 2,262 times in 104 career games.

2. DeMarco Murray, PHI Murray finally played 16 games in a season and delivered in a huge way last fall. Yet, the list of guys who succeed after touching the ball more than 390 times in a season is basically just Eric Dickerson. And Murray has been injury-prone for most of his college and pro career.

3. Arian Foster, HOU Foster missed three games last year and has missed 11 over the last two seasons. He's played in all 16 games just twice in his six years and hasn't been the same since his 391-touch season three years ago.

4. Todd Gurley, STL Gurley dealt with a number of injuries throughout his three-year Georgia career. The most severe was the torn ACL from which he is currently recovering. He was deserving of a top-10 selection in the NFL Draft, but his physical running style suggests a long-term injury concern.

5. Jamaal Charles, KC Charles' relatively diminutive frame (5'11", 199) and injury history will keep him on this list perennially. He has played in 15 games in each of the last two seasons but also posted his two lowest per-carry averages of his career in that span (5.0 both seasons).

6. Darren McFadden, DAL Since Dallas refused to address the running back position in the draft, and it appears that the Cowboys will enter the season with Run-DMC as their starter, he must be on this list. McFadden played in all 16 games last year for the first time in his seven-year career.

7. Eddie Lacy, GB He dealt with some injuries in college at Alabama and has had some issues for the Packers. And concussion issues are even more unpredictable. He also has touched the ball more than 600 times in his first two seasons.

8. Jonathan Stewart, CAR Stewart is poised to be the starter in Carolina, but don't jump too early to snatch the eighth-year veteran. He's missed 20 games in the last three seasons and has just 28 starts in his 90-game career.

9. Andre Ellington, ARI The former Clemson Tiger was a big injury concern in college, and that has continued in the NFL. Ellington missed four games last year and didn't deliver on his big preseason hype.

10. Mark Ingram, NO After the big offseason contract following his best year as a pro, Ingram will enter camp as a hot fantasy commodity. Yet, the Heisman Trophy winner has played in just 50 of 64 games in four seasons in the NFL.

WORKLOAD WATCH TOUCHES PER GAME, 3-YEAR vs. 2-YEAR

Touch/Game, 3-yr	TPG	TCH	GP
1. Adrian Peterson	23.2	719	31
2. DeMarco Murray	22.9	915	40
3. Arian Foster	22.5	832	37
4. Matt Forté	21.8	1023	47
5. LeSean McCoy	21.8	960	44
6. Marshawn Lynch	20.7	992	48
7. Doug Martin	19.8	654	33
8. Jamaal Charles	19.4	894	46
9. Alfred Morris	19.0	913	48
10. Knowshon Moreno	18.3	493	27
11. Ryan Mathews	18.1	617	34
12. Frank Gore	17.6	845	48
13. Chris Johnson	16.9	812	48
14. Steven Jackson	16.2	695	43
15. Stevan Ridley	16.2	582	36

Touch/Game, 2-yr	TPG	TCH	GP
1. DeMarco Murray	24.0	719	30
2. Matt Forté	22.8	731	32
3. Le'Veon Bell	22.8	662	29
4. LeSean McCoy	22.1	706	32
5. Adrian Peterson	22.1	331	15
6. Arian Foster	21.0	441	21
7. Marshawn Lynch	20.4	654	32
8. Eddie Lacy	19.6	607	31
9. Jamaal Charles	19.2	575	30
10. Ryan Mathews	17.9	394	22
11. Alfred Morris	17.7	567	32
12. Knowshon Moreno	17.5	333	19
13. Frank Gore	17.4	558	32
14. Doug Martin	16.8	286	17
15. Reggie Bush	15.7	393	25

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2015 WR RANKINGS

WIDE RECEIVERS	TEAM	BYE
☐ 1. Antonio **Brown**	PIT	11
☐ 2. Demaryius **Thomas**	DEN	7
☐ 3. Dez **Bryant**	DAL	6
☐ 4. Jordy **Nelson**	GB	7
☐ 5. Calvin **Johnson**	DET	9
☐ 6. Julio **Jones**	ATL	10
☐ 7. Odell **Beckham Jr.**	NYG	11
☐ 8. A.J. **Green**	CIN	7
☐ 9. Alshon **Jeffery**	CHI	7
☐ 10. Randall **Cobb**	GB	7
☐ 11. Mike **Evans**	TB	6
☐ 12. T.Y. **Hilton**	IND	10
☐ 13. DeAndre **Hopkins**	HOU	9
☐ 14. Kelvin **Benjamin**	CAR	5
☐ 15. Emmanuel **Sanders**	DEN	7
☐ 16. Golden **Tate**	DET	9
☐ 17. Julian **Edelman**	NE	4
☐ 18. Sammy **Watkins**	BUF	8
☐ 19. Brandin **Cooks**	NO	11
☐ 20. DeSean **Jackson**	WAS	8
☐ 21. Keenan **Allen**	SD	10
☐ 22. Jordan **Matthews**	PHI	8
☐ 23. Jeremy **Maclin**	KC	9
☐ 24. Mike **Wallace**	MIN	5
☐ 25. Jarvis **Landry**	MIA	5
☐ 26. Vincent **Jackson**	TB	6
☐ 27. Andre **Johnson**	IND	10
☐ 28. Amari **Cooper**	OAK	6
☐ 29. Brandon **Marshall**	NYJ	5
☐ 30. Torrey **Smith**	SF	10
☐ 31. Roddy **White**	ATL	10
☐ 32. Eric **Decker**	NYJ	5
☐ 33. Kevin **White**	CHI	7
☐ 34. Nelson **Agholor**	PHI	8
☐ 35. Martavis **Bryant**	PIT	11
☐ 36. Michael **Floyd**	ARI	9
☐ 37. Percy **Harvin**	BUF	8
☐ 38. Brandon **LaFell**	NE	4
☐ 39. Breshad **Perriman**	CLE	11
☐ 40. Charles **Johnson**	MIN	5
☐ 41. Larry **Fitzgerald**	ARI	9
☐ 42. Allen **Robinson**	JAC	8
☐ 43. Kenny **Stills**	MIA	5
☐ 44. Kendall **Wright**	TEN	4
☐ 45. Steve **Smith**	BAL	9
☐ 46. Anquan **Boldin**	SF	10
☐ 47. Marvin **Jones**	CIN	7
☐ 48. Davante **Adams**	GB	7
☐ 49. DeVante **Parker**	MIA	5
☐ 50. John **Brown**	ARI	9
☐ 51. Terrance **Williams**	DAL	6
☐ 52. Doug **Baldwin**	SEA	9
☐ 53. Rueben **Randle**	NYG	11
☐ 54. Donte **Moncrief**	IND	10
☐ 55. Cody **Latimer**	DEN	7
☐ 56. Malcom **Floyd**	SD	10
☐ 57. Pierre **Garçon**	WAS	8
☐ 58. Marques **Colston**	NO	11
☐ 59. Michael **Crabtree**	OAK	6
☐ 60. Jaelen **Strong**	HOU	9
☐ 61. Marqise **Lee**	JAC	8
☐ 62. Josh **Huff**	PHI	8
☐ 63. Dwayne **Bowe**	CLE	11
☐ 64. Dorial **Green-Beckham**	TEN	4
☐ 65. Kenny **Britt**	STL	6
☐ 66. Brian **Quick**	STL	6
☐ 67. Brian **Hartline**	CLE	11
☐ 68. Victor **Cruz**	NYG	11
☐ 69. Riley **Cooper**	PHI	8
☐ 70. Devin **Funchess**	CAR	5
☐ 71. Jermaine **Kearse**	SEA	9
☐ 72. Justin **Hunter**	TEN	4
☐ 73. Mohamed **Sanu**	CIN	7
☐ 74. Cordarrelle **Patterson**	MIN	5
☐ 75. Andrew **Hawkins**	CLE	11
☐ 76. Cecil **Shorts**	HOU	9
☐ 77. Stevie **Johnson**	SD	10
☐ 78. Robert **Woods**	BUF	8
☐ 79. Markus **Wheaton**	PIT	11
☐ 80. Phillip **Dorsett**	IND	10
☐ 81. Tavon **Austin**	STL	6
☐ 82. Eddie **Royal**	CHI	7
☐ 83. Rod **Streater**	OAK	6
☐ 84. Justin **Hardy**	ATL	10
☐ 85. Devin **Smith**	NYJ	5
☐ 86. Greg **Jennings**	MIA	5
☐ 87. Jerricho **Cotchery**	CAR	5
☐ 88. Andre **Roberts**	WAS	8
☐ 89. Danny **Amendola**	NE	4
☐ 90. Jason **Avant**	KC	9

TOP 10 INJURY CONCERNS

1. Victor Cruz, NYG Cruz was off to his worst season before a knee injury ended his year in Week 6. He's been rehabbing and should be healthy; however, he also missed two games the year prior. The smallish receiver is an injury risk every year now.

2. Keenan Allen, SD Allen is a supreme talent who is still very young but has dealt with injuries dating back to his final year at Cal. He missed three games in 2012, one game as a rookie and the last two games a year ago with serious collarbone and ankle injuries.

3. Brandon Marshall, NYJ He's been durable most of his career but is returning from a collapsed lung and broken ribs that ended his season three games early last fall. He takes a lot of hits and is 31 years old. He's a big target for defensive backs and doesn't have an accurate quarterback now.

4. DeSean Jackson, WAS Anyone who weighs less than 180 pounds in the NFL is a guaranteed injury risk. Jackson has played in 16 games just once in six years since his rookie season. It's tough to see him playing a full season ever again.

5. Julian Edleman, NE Tom Brady's top target is a walking injury report. He's made 24 starts in 30 games over the last two years, missing only two games last fall. However, he's missed an average of three games per season over his six-year career.

6. Jeremy Maclin, KC Two major knee injuries have cost Maclin full seasons, both at Mizzou and in Philadelphia (2013). He's played only two 16-game seasons in his six-year career. His smaller stature has much to do with his injury history.

7. Percy Harvin, BUF Playing in 13 games last year should be considered a huge success for a guy with Harvin's injury history. He missed seven games in 2012, 15 in 2013 and three last year. Concussions, migraines, lack of size and his style of play make it hard to trust him on draft day.

8. Calvin Johnson, DET After playing in at least 15 games in five of his first six seasons, the 29-year-old has missed five games in the last two years. He's a big target who takes a lot of hits — even if it probably won't impact his average draft position too much.

9. A.J. Green, CIN He's been healthy most of his career — missing only one game as a rookie before last fall. But he wasn't the same player last year after missing three games due to a toe injury in the middle of the season. He's not an overly big player for his height, so keep an eye on his health.

10. Julio Jones, ATL He's a rare talent but has played in 16 games in a season only once in four pro seasons. He carries a bunch of weight and takes a ton of hits a la Johnson, Marshall or Green. It may not impact his draft stock, though.

AVERAGE DEPTH OF TARGET

Tracked by our game analysts at Pro Football Focus, Average Depth of Target (aDOT) is a better method of tracking the way NFL pass catchers are utilized. Basically an improved version of the popular and mainstream yards per reception (YPR) statistic, aDOT removes volatile YAC (yards after catch) from the equation, instead focusing only on the average distance the player is downfield on each target. Because we're analyzing targets and not receptions, our sample nearly doubles in size, which is key in developing predictable statistics. This season, when your leaguemates are gushing over Joe Schmo's 23.5 YPR thanks to one, fluky bubble screen gone right, you'll see his 5.0 aDOT and know he's not the deep threat he appears to be.

Shown here are the Top 20 and Bottom 20 aDOT marks from the 2014 season. Only wide receivers with 50-plus targets are shown, and playoff data is included.

Rk	Player	Team	Targ	aDOT
1.	Michael Floyd	ARI	95	18.7
2.	Martavis Bryant	PIT	57	18.7
3.	Malcom Floyd	SD	86	18.1
4.	Terrance Williams	DAL	70	16.9
5.	Torrey Smith	BAL	101	16.8
6.	Justin Hunter	TEN	66	16.3
7.	Kenny Britt	STL	81	16.3
8.	Mike Evans	TB	116	15.8
9.	Calvin Johnson	DET	131	15.6
10.	Charles Johnson	MIN	55	15.3
11.	John Brown	ARI	99	15.2
12.	DeSean Jackson	WAS	87	15.1
13.	Vincent Jackson	TB	138	15.0
14.	Andre Holmes	OAK	91	14.8
15.	Mike Wallace	MIA	108	14.8
16.	Kelvin Benjamin	CAR	158	14.6
17.	T.Y. Hilton	IND	149	14.5
18.	Nate Washington	TEN	71	14.3
19.	Jermaine Kearse	SEA	79	14.3
20.	Taylor Gabriel	CLE	71	14.2

Rk	Player	Team	Targ	aDOT
88.	Jarvis Landry	MIA	105	5.4
87.	Wes Welker	DEN	66	6.3
86.	Cole Beasley	DAL	59	6.7
85.	Danny Amendola	NE	57	7.0
84.	Percy Harvin	SEA/NYJ	76	7.7
83.	Julian Edelman	NE	160	7.7
82.	Marqise Lee	JAC	61	8.2
81.	Chris Hogan	BUF	58	8.3
80.	Golden Tate	DET	145	8.3
79.	Brandin Cooks	NO	65	8.5
78.	Andrew Hawkins	CLE	101	8.6
77.	Devin Hester	ATL	57	8.6
76.	Harry Douglas	ATL	72	8.7
75.	Michael Crabtree	SF	102	8.7
74	Keenan Allen	SD	112	8.8
73	Jason Avant	CAR/KC	58	9.0
72	Kendall Wright	TEN	86	9.1
71	Cecil Shorts	JAC	102	9.1
70	James Jones	OAK	108	9.2
69	Dwayne Bowe	KC	90	9.2

Tom DiPace

2015 TE RANKINGS

TIGHT ENDS	TEAM	BYE
☐ 1. Rob **Gronkowski**	NE	4
☐ 2. Jimmy **Graham**	SEA	9
☐ 3. Travis **Kelce**	KC	9
☐ 4. Martellus **Bennett**	CHI	7
☐ 5. Greg **Olsen**	CAR	5
☐ 6. Julius **Thomas**	JAC	8
☐ 7. Antonio **Gates**	SD	10
☐ 8. Zach **Ertz**	PHI	8
☐ 9. Delanie **Walker**	TEN	4
☐ 10. Jason **Witten**	DAL	6
☐ 11. Dwayne **Allen**	IND	10
☐ 12. Jordan **Cameron**	MIA	5
☐ 13. Jordan **Reed**	WAS	8
☐ 14. Charles **Clay**	BUF	8
☐ 15. Josh **Hill**	NO	11
☐ 16. Owen **Daniels**	DEN	7
☐ 17. Kyle **Rudolph**	MIN	5
☐ 18. Austin **Seferian-Jenkins**	TB	6
☐ 19. Tyler **Eifert**	CIN	7
☐ 20. Larry **Donnell**	NYG	11
☐ 21. Coby **Fleener**	IND	10
☐ 22. Eric **Ebron**	DET	9
☐ 23. Vernon **Davis**	SF	10
☐ 24. Heath **Miller**	PIT	11
☐ 25. Jace **Amaro**	NYJ	5
☐ 26. Maxx **Williams**	BAL	9
☐ 27. Mychal **Rivera**	OAK	6
☐ 28. Richard **Rodgers**	GB	7
☐ 29. Virgil **Green**	DEN	7
☐ 30. Jared **Cook**	STL	6
☐ 31. Jacob **Tamme**	ATL	10
☐ 32. Ladarius **Green**	SD	10
☐ 33. Rob **Housler**	CLE	11
☐ 34. Scott **Chandler**	NE	4
☐ 35. Clive **Walford**	OAK	6
☐ 36. Andrew **Quarless**	GB	7
☐ 37 Garrett **Graham**	HOU	9
☐ 38 Troy **Niklas**	ARI	9
☐ 39 Anthony **Fasano**	TEN	4
☐ 40 Levine **Toilolo**	ATL	10

TOP 10 INJURY CONCERNS

1. Rob Gronkowski, NE The massive target will never not be considered an injury risk despite playing 15 games last year. His style of play will always create risk for fantasy players, and it's why he's missed 15 games over the last three years.

2. Julius Thomas, JAC In two years as a star in Denver, Thomas missed five games. Now in Jacksonville, he's had surgery to repair the injured ankle that cost him three games last season.

3. Antonio Gates, SD Age is the biggest concern with Gates. He's played in 16 games in each of the last two seasons after missing 10 games from 2010-12. At age 35 this season, the injury risk has increased significantly for a player who plays a physical position.

4. Dwayne Allen, IND There are few players who play with less regard for their personal safety. But such a style means Allen is constantly dealing with injuries. He missed all but one game two years ago and three games last fall.

5. Jordan Cameron, MIA He was a great pick up for the Dolphins but has some serious concussion concerns after missing six games last year in Cleveland. In fact, Cameron has never played in all 16 games in a season.

6. Austin Seferian-Jenkins, TB As a rookie, ASJ played only nine games and dealt with ankle and back injuries during his first season. He's a massive target who will be excellent if on the field full time.

7. Owen Daniels, DEN The poster child for injuries, Daniels will befuddle fantasy drafters with locational upside (Denver) but major injury risk. He's had three seasons in the last six in which he played 11 games or fewer. Draft with caution (and a back-up plan).

8. Jordan Reed, WAS He played in nine games as a rookie and just 11 games last year. When healthy, he's a starter in most fantasy formats. But he's dealt with concussions and various other ailments and isn't a lock for a full season.

9. Tyler Eifert, CIN The Bengals' tight end played in 15 games as a rookie but started just one last year after a shoulder injury and subsequent surgery ended his season prematurely. He should have a bigger role this fall but needs to stay healthy to capitalize.

10. Kyle Rudolph, MIN Much like Daniels, Rudolph may be on this list annually. He missed eight games two years ago and seven games last season and has been an injury risk throughout both his college and pro careers.

AVERAGE DEPTH OF TARGET

Tracked by our game analysts at Pro Football Focus, Average Depth of Target (aDOT) is a better method of tracking the way NFL pass catchers are utilized. Basically an improved version of the popular and mainstream yards per reception (YPR) statistic, aDOT removes volatile YAC (yards after catch) from the equation, instead focusing only on the average distance the player is down field on each target. Because we're analyzing targets and not receptions, our sample nearly doubles in size, which is key in developing predictable statistics. This season, when looking for a bye week fill-in, bold owners can take a chance on a tight end with a high aDOT in hopes of a big play or two. Risk-averse owners in PPR formats can nab a big man with a low aDOT, and thus higher catch potential.

Shown here are the aDOT marks for each tight end targeted at least 40 times during the 2014 season. To maximize our sample size, playoff data is included.

Rk	Player	Team	Targ	aDOT
1.	Vernon Davis	SF	47	12.1
2.	Coby Fleener	IND	97	11.2
3.	Zach Ertz	PHI	86	10.9
4.	Jordan Cameron	CLE	42	10.3
5.	Rob Gronkowski	NE	152	10.2
6.	Antonio Gates	SD	98	10.0
7.	Delanie Walker	TEN	100	9.8
8.	Jeff Cumberland	NYJ	43	9.7
9.	Jason Witten	DAL	101	9.4
10.	Luke Willson	SEA	48	9.3
11.	Jared Cook	STL	91	9.1
12.	Greg Olsen	CAR	131	8.8
13.	Larry Donnell	NYG	87	8.6
14.	Owen Daniels	BAL	88	8.6
15.	Jimmy Graham	NO	121	8.6
16.	Mychal Rivera	OAK	91	8.6
17.	Eric Ebron	DET	49	8.5
18.	Dwayne Allen	IND	60	8.4
19.	Brent Celek	PHI	47	7.9
20.	Niles Paul	WAS	51	7.8
21.	Charles Clay	MIA	81	7.6
22.	Heath Miller	PIT	98	7.6
23.	Scott Chandler	BUF	67	7.5
24.	Julius Thomas	DEN	67	7.3
25.	John Carlson	ARI	53	7.1
26.	Jace Amaro	NYJ	52	7.1
27.	Martellus Bennett	CHI	125	6.5
28.	Andrew Quarless	GB	48	6.5
29.	Travis Kelce	KC	80	6.3
30.	Levine Toilolo	ATL	49	5.5
31.	Jordan Reed	WAS	65	4.7
32.	Jermaine Gresham	CIN	78	4.5

2015 DST RANKINGS

DEFENSE/ SPECIAL TEAMS

DEFENSE/ SPECIAL TEAMS	BYE	DEFENSE/ SPECIAL TEAMS	BYE
☐ 1. **Seahawks**	9	☐ 17. **Colts**	10
☐ 2. **Bills**	8	☐ 18. **Giants**	11
☐ 3. **Rams**	6	☐ 19. **49ers**	10
☐ 4. **Texans**	9	☐ 20. **Vikings**	5
☐ 5. **Jets**	5	☐ 21. **Buccaneers**	6
☐ 6. **Cardinals**	9	☐ 22. **Jaguars**	8
☐ 7. **Dolphins**	5	☐ 23. **Browns**	11
☐ 8. **Broncos**	7	☐ 24. **Eagles**	8
☐ 9. **Chiefs**	9	☐ 25. **Cowboys**	6
☐ 10. **Packers**	7	☐ 26. **Chargers**	10
☐ 11. **Ravens**	9	☐ 27. **Falcons**	10
☐ 12. **Panthers**	5	☐ 28. **Saints**	11
☐ 13. **Bengals**	7	☐ 29. **Raiders**	6
☐ 14. **Lions**	9	☐ 30. **Bears**	7
☐ 15. **Patriots**	4	☐ 31. **Titans**	4
☐ 16. **Steelers**	11	☐ 32. **Redskins**	8

GOING UP, GOING DOWN

Chicago The Bears have been a disaster on defense recently, finishing no better than 30th in yards or points allowed in either of the past two seasons. But that was with offensive-minded Marc Trestman as head coach. Now John Fox is calling the shots, and he has former 49ers defensive coordinator Vic Fangio to help him turn things around. Personnel questions still exist, but hopefully additions such as Antrel Rolle, Pernell McPhee, Ray McDonald, Mason Foster and second-round pick Eddie Goldman can help solidify and strengthen this unit. Don't be surprised if Chicago emerges as a reliable fantasy option in 2015.

Cincinnati The Bengals went from being a top-five fantasy DST in 2013 to 24th last season. Cincinnati's pass rush, which was productive two seasons ago with 43 sacks (10th in NFL), was practically non-existent in 2014, finishing dead last with just 20 QB takedowns. Otherwise, several of the defense's counting stats were relatively the same when comparing 2013 to '14, including points allowed (19.1 vs. 21.5), and interceptions (20 both seasons). With defensive end Michael Johnson back in the fold to bolster the pass rush and two rookies, linebacker Paul Dawson and safety Josh Shaw, adding to the depth, this Bengals defense may show its claws once again in 2015.

Miami The Dolphins reeled in the biggest fish in the free-agent market this offseason, signing Ndamukong Suh to a record-setting six-year, $114 million deal. The All-Pro defensive tackle should help Miami field one of the league's most formidable front lines, teaming Suh with defensive ends Cameron Wake and Olivier Vernon. Suh certainly did not come cheap ($60 million guaranteed in first three years), but he should help improve the Dolphins' run defense after finishing 24th (121.1 ypg) a season ago. This unit still has some depth issues elsewhere, but Suh's presence alone is enough to like Miami's chances of emerging as a top-10 fantasy DST this season.

N.Y. Jets Rex Ryan is gone, but the Jets kept their defensive mindset by hiring Cardinals coordinator Todd Bowles as their new head coach. And Bowles got one nice housewarming gift when the team brought Darrelle Revis back to the Big Apple. The shutdown cornerback will be reunited with running mate Antonio Cromartie, his teammate from 2010-12 when New York was consistently one of the NFL's stingier defenses. And an already stout defensive line headlined by Sheldon Richardson and Muhammad Wilkerson got even deeper with the addition of first-round pick Leonard Williams. Put the pieces all together and it's pretty safe to assume that this DST won't finish 2015 29th in fantasy points.

Detroit Losing Ndamukong Suh to Miami in free agency is tough enough, but the Lions also saw Nick Fairley sign with the Rams and traded George Johnson to the Bucs. Those three defensive linemen combined for 16.5 of the team's 42 sacks in 2014 and are now gone from the NFL's No. 1 rushing defense (69.3 ypg). Detroit did acquire former Raven Haloti Ngata in a trade, but the two-time All-Pro is 31 years old. The Lions should get key linebacker Stephen Tulloch back from a torn ACL, but the question marks in the secondary remain and could be even more of an issue this season since Suh, Fairley and Johnson won't be around to put pressure on the quarterback.

New England Not only is defensive line linchpin Vince Wilfork now in Houston, but the Patriots also will be breaking in new cornerbacks, with Darrelle Revis (Jets) and Brandon Browner (Saints) elsewhere. Devin McCourty was re-signed to anchor the back end, and Chandler Jones replaces Wilfork as the headliner up front, but even the healthy return of linebacker Jerod Mayo may not be enough for the Patriots to overcome depth issues. New England went heavy on defense in the draft, using seven of its 11 picks on that side. However, this inexperience and lack of continuity could lead to inconsistent performances, making it hard to endorse the Patriots DST as an every-week starting option in 2015.

Philadelphia The Eagles were the third-highest-scoring fantasy DST last season, but a closer look at the numbers paints a different picture. Philadelphia finished 28th in total defense (375.6 ypg) and tied for 22nd in scoring defense (25.0 ppg), yet still produced fantasy-wise thanks to turnovers (28) and touchdowns. The Eagles scored 11 defensive or special teams touchdowns in 2014, five more such scores than any other team. Yes, Philadelphia signed cornerback Byron Maxwell in free agency and acquired linebacker Kiko Alonso in a trade. However, given the volatility when it comes to creating turnovers, the Eagles DST will be hard-pressed to replicate its 2014 fantasy success this season.

San Francisco The No. 4 scoring fantasy DST in 2013, the 49ers dropped to 11th last season and will probably continue their decline in 2015. Not only has the coaching staff been completely turned over, but San Francisco also has seen linebackers Patrick Willis and Chris Borland retire this offseason, while starting cornerbacks Perrish Cox and Chris Culliver left via free agency. All-Pro linebacker NaVorro Bowman should finally make his return from a torn ACL, but this defense will have a new look in 2015. The reality is that this once-formidable defense has clearly fallen to fourth in the rugged NFC West and could be in for a long, difficult season.

Tom DiPace

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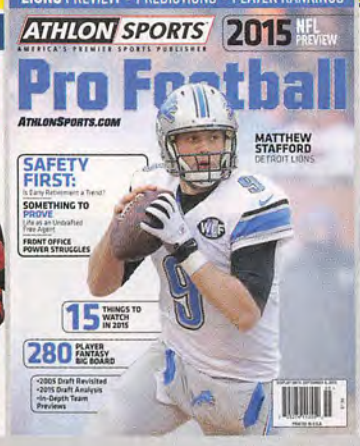

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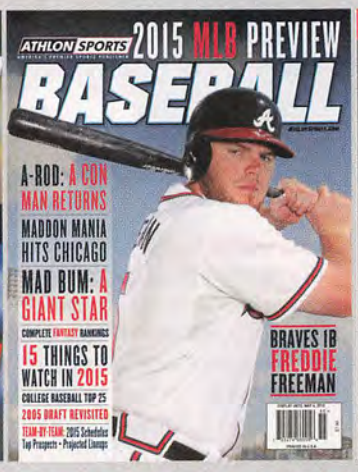

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SCAN WITH SMART PHONE

TOP SUPER BOWL PERFORMANCES

By Michael Bradley

Since the Super Bowl is football's biggest stage, it should be no surprise that its most impressive performances have come from some of the sport's most memorable players. Regular-season success brings notice, but big results in the Big Game create legends.

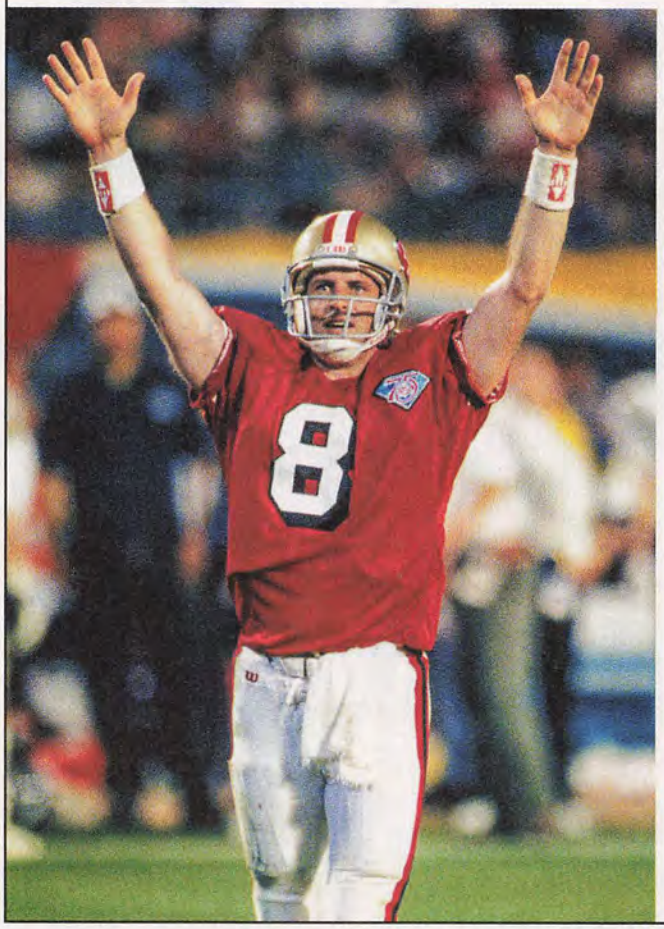
It's one thing to throw five TD passes in November, but those who can do it in the biggest game in sports earn spots in football's Valhalla among the most clutch performers. There have been legendary teams to win Super Bowls and dynasties galore, but the players have been the ones to author the true memorable Super moments.

Here are the top 10 Super performances.

1. Steve Young • San Francisco • Super Bowl XXIX

It had to be extremely difficult for Young, who began his career in the USFL, suffered through a couple of forgettable seasons with Tampa Bay and then sat behind Joe Montana for four years. By the time Young became a starter, he was 30 years old, and some wondered whether he could lead the 49ers the way his famous predecessor had.

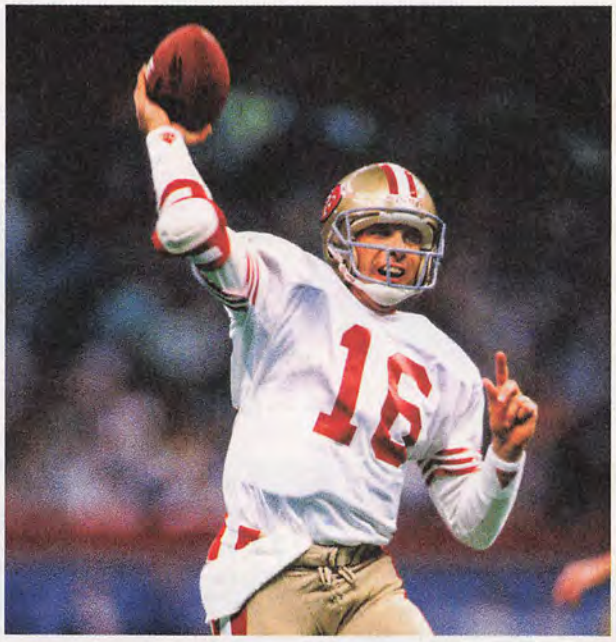
Young proved himself more than worthy of the role right away, and by the time he led San Francisco to the Super Bowl to culminate the 1994 season, Young was primed for a remarkable outing. It was his only start in the Big Game, and he was supreme. He completed 24-of-36 passes for 325 yards and six touchdowns in the Niners' 49–26 rout of San Diego. Young also ran five times for 49 yards to solidify his Hall of Fame status.



2. Joe Montana • San Francisco • Super Bowl XXIV

It's amazing that Montana came into the NFL as a relatively unheralded third-round pick after proving himself to be Mr. Comeback while at Notre Dame. But Montana quickly proved to be one of the NFL's top big-time performers and won four Super Bowls in the 1980s.

It's difficult to choose his best Super effort. Some say it was the 331-yard, three-TD outing against Miami in Super Bowl XIX. Others point to the 357-yard, two-score outburst against Cincinnati in XXIII. All told, Montana completed 68 percent of his passes for 1,142 yards, 11 touchdowns and no interceptions in his four Super Bowls, which comes out roughly to a QB rating of two million. The best of the bunch, however, is his clinical dissection of Denver in SF's 55–10 Super Bowl XXIV romp. Montana completed 22-of-29 passes for 297 yards and five scores to conclude his Super résumé in style. It appeared as if Montana was playing against only nine players, as he carved up the helpless Broncos and cemented his football immortality.

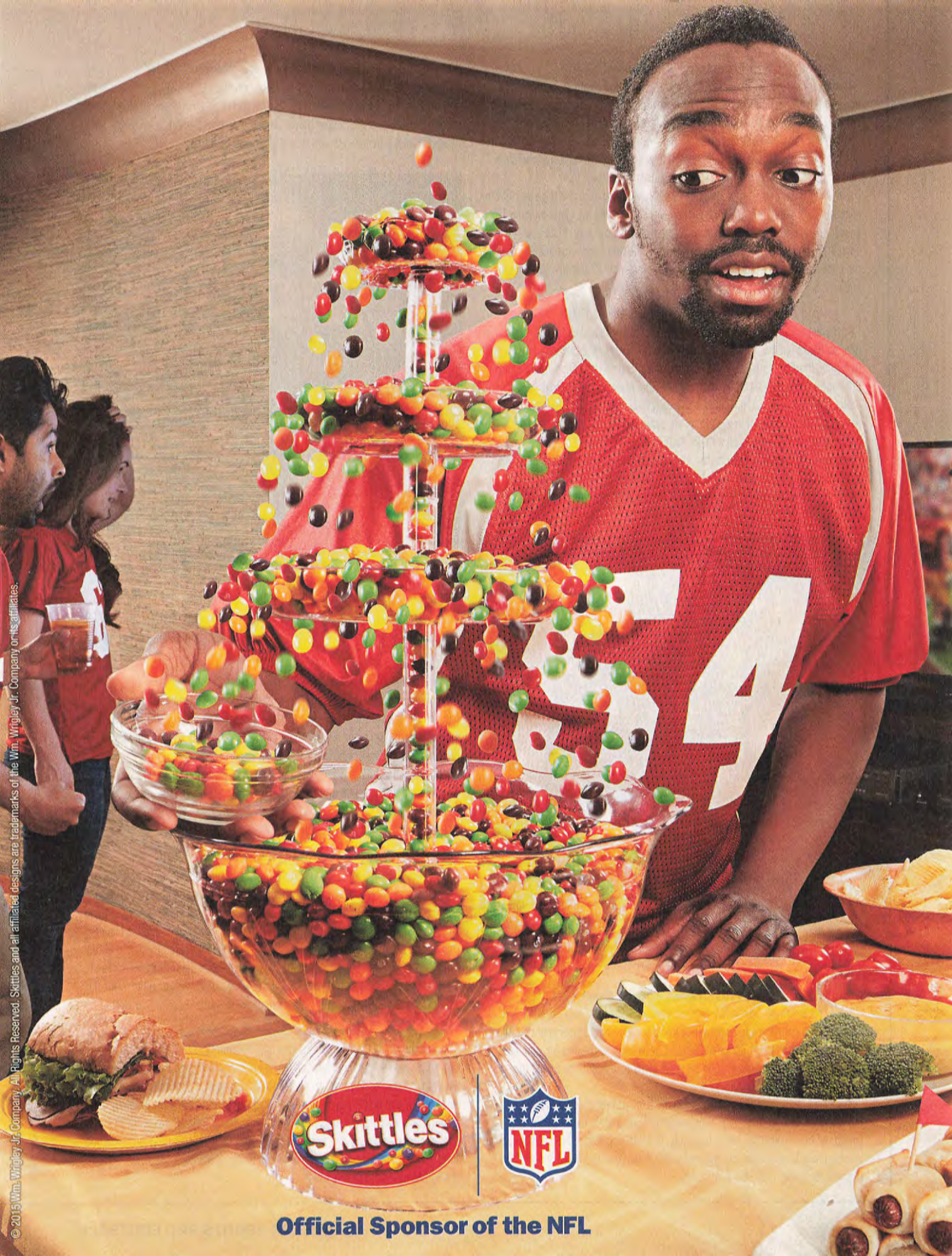


3. Kurt Warner • St. Louis • Super Bowl XXXIV

It's a story that has been told many times, but it never gets old. Before Warner joined the Rams and became a champion, he was a grocery store checker who couldn't get a look from an NFL team. For him to go from that kind of anonymity to Super Bowl legend is one of football's most amazing stories. Warner not only got a big break when St. Louis decided to take a closer look at him, but he also benefited from the "Greatest Show on Turf" offense created by Rams coordinator Mike Martz. Playing from the shotgun and benefiting from the NFL's most gifted set of receivers, Warner became the league's most prolific gunslinger.

At no time was that more evident than during Warner's Super debut. He completed 24-of-45 passes for a record 414 yards, two scores and no picks in the Rams' dramatic, 23–16 win over Tennessee. It was the first of three great performances for Warner, who threw for 1,156 yards in Super Bowl competition and sent NFL teams into supermarkets and hardware stores in search of the next overlooked superstar.

Tom DiPace



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4. Jerry Rice • San Francisco • Super Bowl XXIII

There were more than a couple NFL fans who had never heard of Rice when he moved from Archie Cooley's Mississippi Valley State offensive circus to the 49ers. The receiver had benefited from a system that completely overwhelmed rivals and a quarterback — Willie "The Satellite" Totten — with a grenade launcher for an arm. But Rice was much more than a product of a wild system. He was a precise route runner with the ability to turn a 5-yard completion into a big play.

And when the Niners started on their Super Bowl binge, he was a huge part of the success. Even though the magnificent receiver didn't catch the game-winning TD pass in the 20–16 victory over Cincinnati, he did just about everything else. Rice snared 11 passes for 215 yards (both records at the time) and a touchdown. It was the opening salvo in a four-game fusillade that included 33 catches, eight scores and a 17.8-yard average.

5. Marcus Allen • Los Angeles • Super Bowl XVIII

As the Super Bowl gained traction throughout the 1970s and early '80s, great running backs led the way. The pro game was still a ground-based concern during that time, thanks to greats such as Larry Csonka, Franco Harris and John Riggins. But none of them had a combination of skills like Allen, who had great size, enough power to knock some people down, breakaway speed and the rare leaping ability to get over piles on the goal line. Even as the game opened up, and the pass became a bigger weapon, Allen was still a major factor.

He proved that against Washington. His 74-yard touchdown bolt that included a high-speed cutback and a sprint to the end zone was the signature play of a 20-carry, 191-yard, two-TD performance in the Raiders' 38–9 rout.

6. Doug Williams • Washington • Super Bowl XXII

During his time with Tampa Bay, Williams proved himself to be a consummate leader. His charismatic approach helped the lowly Bucs gain respectability in the NFL. But he couldn't ever match his winning personality with some big numbers. While most people concentrated on the color of Williams' skin, he craved the chance to come up big in a big game.

That happened against Denver. Things didn't look all that good for Washington when the Broncos took a 10–0 first-quarter lead, and Williams was briefly consigned to the sidelines with a leg injury. But Williams owned the second quarter, throwing four TD passes in an explosive performance that ultimately yielded 340 passing yards and a 42–10 D.C. triumph.

7. Tom Brady • New England • Super Bowl XXXVIII

There can be no better example of the capriciousness of the NFL Draft than Brady, a sixth-round pick who became one of the greatest quarterbacks of all time and one of only three to earn four Super Bowl victories. Few expected much from him, but Brady became a tremendous leader and big-game performer.

He was the boy wonder in the Pats' first Super triumph over St. Louis, but when Brady took on Carolina two years later, he was in complete control, throwing for 354 yards and three scores on 66.7 percent passing and completing four passes on the final drive to set up the game-winning field goal.

8. Terrell Davis • Denver • Super Bowl XXXII

Davis was another big draft mistake — at least for those teams that passed on him as many as six times. Denver was smart enough to grab him, and he became a huge weapon. Davis had a great blend of speed and power, and his production provided the last ingredient for Denver's Super Bowl recipe.

John Elway had tried to win Super Bowls three times before, but it wasn't until Davis arrived on the scene that the quarterback succeeded. In this win over Green Bay, Davis was the meal ticket, rushing 30 times for 157 yards and three scores, including the decisive TD with 1:45 left in a 31–24 triumph.

9. Terry Bradshaw • Pittsburgh • Super Bowl XIII

People loved to make fun of the folksy Bradshaw. They ripped him for his wobbly passes. And they even questioned his intelligence, even though he was calling his own plays while most of the league was getting its assignments from the coaching staff. Bradshaw was one of the toughest quarterbacks of all time, and his leadership and ability to deliver in the postseason helped lift Pittsburgh to the top of the heap. One of only two passers to post 4–0 records in Super play, Bradshaw was at his finest against the Cowboys in a thrilling 35–31 victory. He completed 17-of-30 passes for 318 yards and four scores, including a 75-yarder to John Stallworth.

10. Larry Csonka • Miami • Super Bowl VIII

He was the consummate battering ram and the prototype of the 1970s back. Csonka played with talented backs such as Mercury Morris and Jim Kiick. But when the Dolphins needed to preserve a lead, get a tough yard or just soften up opposing defenses for one of Bob Griese's rare throws downfield, the job went to the Syracuse product, who was practically impossible to bring down with just one man. There was nothing subtle about the Dolphins' 24–7 win over Minnesota. Griese threw only seven passes, and "The Zonk" did the rest, rushing 33 times for 145 yards, two scores and countless bloody noses.

Brady: Tom DiPace; Allen: AP

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2015 AFC PREDICTIONS

AFC PLAYOFF SEEDING

1. COLTS
2. BRONCOS
3. PATRIOTS
4. STEELERS
5. BENGALS
6. BILLS

WILD CARD

PATRIOTS OVER BILLS
STEELERS OVER BENGALS

DIVISIONAL ROUND

BRONCOS OVER PATRIOTS
COLTS OVER STEELERS

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

COLTS OVER BRONCOS

SUPER BOWL 50

PACKERS OVER COLTS

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AFC POWER RANKINGS

1. COLTS
2. BRONCOS
3. PATRIOTS
4. STEELERS
5. BENGALS
6. BILLS
7. CHIEFS
8. RAVENS
9. DOLPHINS
10. TEXANS
11. CHARGERS
12. BROWNS
13. JETS
14. RAIDERS
15. JAGUARS
16. TITANS

AFC EAST

1. New England Patriots
Brady suspension aside, they're still the class of this division.

2. Buffalo Bills
New coach. New attitude. Same old QB questions.

3. Miami Dolphins
Can Tannehill lead them out of the 8–8 rut?

4. New York Jets
Defense will be better — still not enough offense, though.

AFC NORTH

1. Pittsburgh Steelers
Pieces in place but schedule is no picnic.

2. Cincinnati Bengals
Consistent contenders, but will they ever win a playoff game?

3. Baltimore Ravens
Division is so close that their third-place schedule could lift them to top.

4. Cleveland Browns
No title expectations, but all eyes will still be on Johnny Manziel.

AFC SOUTH

1. Indianapolis Colts
Took a step last year. Can they take the final one to the Super Bowl?

2. Houston Texans
Offense needs to be better; J.J. Watt can't possibly score more TDs.

3. Jacksonville Jaguars
Brought in a lot of new faces. Offense can't get much worse.

4. Tennessee Titans
Top pick Marcus Mariota isn't expected to work a miracle.

AFC WEST

1. Denver Broncos
New staff could rejuvenate Manning & Co. for one more run.

2. Kansas City Chiefs
The injury bug can't possibly bite as hard as it did last season.

3. San Diego Chargers
Will this be Philip Rivers' last go-round with the Bolts?

4. Oakland Raiders
Don't look now, but the Raiders seem to have a real plan.

Luck: Tom DiPace; Watt: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

AFC COORDINATOR CAROUSEL

BALTIMORE RAVENS
Offensive Coordinator
Old: Gary Kubiak **New:** Marc Trestman
Fired after going 13–19 in two seasons as Chicago's head coach, Trestman returns to his roots in Baltimore. This will be Trestman's fifth stint as an NFL offensive coordinator, the most recent being with the Raiders from 2001-03.

BUFFALO BILLS
Defensive Coordinator
Old: Jim Schwartz **New:** Dennis Thurman
Thurman's tenure with the Jets pre-dated Rex Ryan, but he is one of several assistants who have followed Ryan to Buffalo. Hired as the Jets' defensive backs coach in 2008, Thurman was elevated to defensive coordinator in '13.

BUFFALO BILLS
Offensive Coordinator
Old: Nathaniel Hackett **New:** Greg Roman
Roman joins Rex Ryan and the Bills after spending the past four seasons with Jim Harbaugh and the 49ers. Roman and Ryan have worked on the same staff before, in Baltimore from 2006-07 when the former was an offensive assistant and the latter was the Ravens' defensive coordinator.

CLEVELAND BROWNS
Offensive Coordinator
Old: Kyle Shanahan **New:** John DeFilippo
An Ohio native, DeFilippo is the Browns' sixth offensive coordinator in as many years. The quarterbacks coach for the Raiders the past three seasons, DeFilippo is getting his first crack at being a coordinator on the NFL level.

DENVER BRONCOS
Defensive Coordinator
Old: Jack Del Rio **New:** Wade Phillips
Phillips has 37 years of coaching experience in the NFL, 33 of those coming as a defensive coordinator or head coach. He previously served as the Broncos' defensive coordinator from 1989-92 and the head coach from 1993-94. He also was Gary Kubiak's defensive coordinator in Houston from 2011-13.

DENVER BRONCOS
Offensive Coordinator
Old: Adam Gase **New:** Rick Dennison
Dennison's ties to the Broncos span 26 years, beginning with his playing days as a linebacker (1982-90). After starting his coaching career with Denver, Dennison joined Gary Kubiak's staff in Houston, serving as offensive coordinator for the Texans from 2010-13.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS
Offensive Coordinator
Old: Jedd Fisch **New:** Greg Olson
The Raiders' offensive coordinator the past two seasons, Olson has served in this position for four other teams during his coaching career. Olson also has previously coached for the Jaguars, serving as Mike Mularkey's assistant head coach/quarterbacks coach in 2012.

NEW YORK JETS
Defensive Coordinator
Old: Dennis Thurman **New:** Kacy Rodgers
The Dolphins' defensive line coach the past seven seasons, Rodgers is getting his first shot at being a coordinator for rookie head coach Todd Bowles. Prior to going to Miami, Rodgers coached in Dallas from 2003-07.

NEW YORK JETS
Offensive Coordinator
Old: Marty Mornhinweg **New:** Chan Gailey
Gailey has been a head coach on both the college and NFL levels as well as in Europe for the short-lived World League. Besides leading the Cowboys (1998-99, 18–14) and Bills (2010-12, 16–32), Gailey also has been an offensive coordinator for the Broncos, Steelers, Dolphins and Chiefs.

OAKLAND RAIDERS
Defensive Coordinator
Old: Jason Tarver **New:** Ken Norton Jr.
Norton won three Super Bowl rings during his 13-year career as a linebacker for the Cowboys and 49ers. This is Norton's first coordinator job after spending the past five seasons as the Seahawks' linebackers coach.

OAKLAND RAIDERS
Offensive Coordinator
Old: Greg Olson **New:** Bill Musgrave
Philadelphia's quarterbacks coach last season, Musgrave is not only reuniting with his former boss, Jack Del Rio, but he's also returning to the place where his coaching career began back in 1997. Musgrave was Del Rio's offensive coordinator with the Jaguars from 2003-04, and he also spent three seasons (2011-13) with the Vikings in the same capacity.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS
Defensive Coordinator
Old: Dick LeBeau **New:** Keith Butler
The Steelers' linebackers coach since 2003, Butler has some big shoes to fill following the resignation of LeBeau, the Hall of Famer whose NFL career spans nearly 60 years.

TENNESSEE TITANS
Defensive Coordinator
Old: Ray Horton **New:** Dick LeBeau/Ray Horton
After 11 years running the Steelers' defense, LeBeau joined the Titans in February as assistant head coach/defense. The Hall of Fame coach is in charge of the defense and will work with Horton, who retains the title of defensive coordinator, to implement the system.

Offensive Player of the Year
ANDREW LUCK, QB, COLTS

Defensive Player of the Year
J.J. WATT, DE, TEXANS

Comeback Player of the Year
DERRICK JOHNSON, LB, CHIEFS

Offensive Rookie of the Year
MELVIN GORDON, RB, CHARGERS

Defensive Rookie of the Year
SHANE RAY, OLB, BRONCOS

Coach of the Year
CHUCK PAGANO, COLTS

BUFFALO BILLS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Rex Ryan
RECORD WITH TEAM: 0–0
CAREER RECORD: 46–50
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Greg Roman
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dennis Thurman
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Danny Crossman
QUARTERBACKS: David Lee
ASST. HEAD COACH/RUNNING BACKS: Anthony Lynn
WIDE RECEIVERS: Sanjay Lal
TIGHT ENDS: Tony Sparano
OFFENSIVE LINE: Aaron Kromer
DEFENSIVE LINE: Karl Dunbar
LINEBACKERS: Bobby April III
DEFENSIVE BACKS: Donnie Henderson, Tim McDonald

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2010	4
2011	6
2012	6
2013	6
2014	9

SAMMY WATKINS, WR

2 AFC EAST FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER: Kim and Terry Pegula
PRESIDENT: Russ Brandon
GENERAL MANAGER: Doug Whaley
DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL: Jim Monos
STADIUM: Ralph Wilson Stadium (73,079)
SURFACE: A-Turf Titan
WEBSITE: www.buffalobills.com
TICKETS: 877-BB-TICKS
TRAINING CAMP: St. John Fisher College (Rochester, N.Y.)

When coach Doug Marrone up and quit on the team on New Year's Eve, the Buffalo Bills were doing what they always do: leading the NFL in dysfunction. Marrone was on the job just two years and had led the team to a 9–7 finish, Buffalo's best in a decade but still not good enough to end a 15-year playoff drought.

But just when it seemed to be business as usual, new owner Terry Pegula and second-year general manager Doug Whaley began making blockbuster moves all over the place. It began with the hiring of Rex Ryan, jettisoned by the rival New York Jets, to replace Marrone. It reached a fever pitch when a trade was swung with the Philadelphia Eagles to acquire running back LeSean McCoy.

"Is this thing on? Because it's going to be on," blurted the colorful Ryan into the microphone.

Whether Buffalo has improved on offense enough to complement one of the league's top defenses remains to be seen. But Team Dysfunction has finally gotten its act together.

OFFENSE The Bills have lacked true star power on this side of the ball, but things are turning. The McCoy acquisition vastly upgraded the club's moribund rushing game that fell to 25th in the NFL at 92.6 yards per game as veteran Fred Jackson and the departed C.J. Spiller (New Orleans) battled injuries. As a team, the Bills set a franchise record for fewest rushing yards in a 16-game season with 1,482.

McCoy, just 27, had 1,319 yards on 312 attempts all by himself for the Eagles. With 9,074 combined career yards and 54 touchdowns, he is an elite talent with workhorse stamina for whom teams will have to game-plan.

Without the McCoy deal, along with the signing of Pro Bowl fullback Jerome Felton, Ryan's proclamation of "ground and pound" would amount to ground chuck. Now the Bills — under new coordinator Greg Roman, who rode Frank Gore with the San Francisco 49ers — can complement the quarterback with a running game that can dictate tempo.

Oh yes, quarterback. The Bills will hold a wide-open competition for the job among 2013 first-round pick EJ Manuel, savvy veteran Matt Cassel, picked up in a trade with Minnesota, and free agent Tyrod Taylor.

For Manuel, who was benched after a month in favor of the departed Kyle Orton, this is a crossroads. Unless he's the clear-cut best player through the preseason, Ryan and Roman will be more than content to have Cassell game-manage their run-based attack. Cassell, 31, led 10-win teams in New England and Kansas City in the past, and his 96-to-70 TD-to-interception ratio for his career has to be respected.

But don't get the impression Buffalo will be all run and no fun. The Bills receiving corps is young and dynamic, led by last year's rookie sensation Sammy Watkins, who set team rookie marks for catches (65) and yards (982), and second-year man Robert Woods. The well-traveled Percy Harvin was also added to the mix, and Chris Hogan is an emerging talent. The tight end position received a huge boost as well with the signing of Miami free agent Charles Clay, who will give the Bills many matchup advantages downfield.

The line will remain a bit unsettled through the summer but figures to shake itself out just fine. Free agent guard Richie Incognito, who spent a year in exile after "Bullygate" in Miami, brings attitude and toughness to a unit that produced just seven rushing TDs and yielded 39 sacks. The other guard spot is up for grabs, but there is no shortage of candidates, including rookie John Miller. Underrated center Eric Wood will man the middle for a seventh season.

DEFENSE In 2014, the Bills ranked fourth in yards allowed (312.2), behind only Seattle, Detroit and Denver. They also ranked fourth in points allowed (18.1), first in sacks (54), third in takeaways (30), third in pass defense and first in third-down efficiency.

That makes for a pretty tough encore for new coordinator Dennis Thurman, who came over with Ryan from the Jets. But it is one Buffalo — given its wealth of talent — is capable of.

It all starts up front where the Bills feature not one, not two, but three Pro Bowl linemen: Mario Williams, Marcell Dareus and Kyle Williams. With Jerry Hughes, who was re-signed as a free agent, Buffalo is able to generate immense pressure on opposing quarterbacks without having to blitz much; those four combined for 39.5 of the team's NFL-leading 54 sacks in 2014. Things are so good at this position, the backups could start for other teams.

Ryan is known as a 3-4 proponent, but in truth, he matches his scheme to his personnel, so the Bills will feature a lot of four-man looks (disguised as three-man). Mario Williams and Hughes can play off the line as outside linebackers as well.

Watkins: Peter Brouillet; Fan: AP; Williams: Tom DiPace

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

FAMILY BUSINESS Rex Ryan isn't the first member of his notable coaching family to work in Buffalo. His even more famous father, Buddy Ryan, was the defensive line coach at the University of Buffalo from 1961-65. Buddy Ryan coached the Chicago Bears' famed 1985 Super Bowl defense and later was head coach of the Eagles and Cardinals. Rex's brother Rob has been a defensive coordinator for four NFL teams.

BILLICK COACHING TREE Ryan is off the Brian Billick coaching tree, having served under the Baltimore Ravens coach who won Super Bowl XXXV. Other head coaches who are part of that tree are Marvin Lewis, Jack Del Rio, Mike Smith and Mike Nolan. "I'm proud to be associated with Brian Billick," Ryan says. "He put together an incredible staff there ... and he fell under the Bill Walsh tree." Ryan has brought two of Billick's assistants with him to Buffalo, Greg Roman as his offensive coordinator and Dennis Thurman as his defensive coordinator.

GROUND AND POUND When Ryan says he believes in running the ball, he means it. While coach of the Jets for six seasons, only once did his offense pass the ball more times than it ran it. During the 2009 and 2010 seasons, when the Jets advanced to the AFC title game both years, they ran the ball 607 and 534 times, respectively. Unfortunately for Ryan, the Jets' running totals never reached those thresholds again during his tenure. Combine that with inconsistent quarterback play, and the Jets missed the playoffs each of his final four years.

SECOND-ROUND GEMS The Bills did not have a first-round pick due to last season's trade with Cleveland to take receiver Sammy Watkins. Their top pick, 50th overall, was Florida State cornerback Ronald Darby in the second round. But Buffalo has a history of finding talent in the second round, led by guard Billy Shaw and running back Thurman Thomas, two members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

SUPER MARIO After signing a $100-million free agent contract in 2012, Mario Williams had a quiet 10.5 sacks for the Bills that season and faced ridicule from fans who felt he wasn't worth that kind of money. But he's been a force to be reckoned with his last two seasons, notching 13 and 14.5 sacks, respectively. He joins Buffalo legend and Hall of Famer Bruce Smith as the only Bills with two seasons of at least 13 sacks.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
QB	Matt Cassel	Minnesota
TE	Charles Clay	Miami
FB	Jerome Felton	Minnesota
WR	Percy Harvin	N.Y. Jets
OG	Richie Incognito	Miami
RB	LeSean McCoy	Philadelphia

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
LB	Kiko Alonso	Philadelphia
OT	Chris Hairston	San Diego
OG	Erik Pears	San Francisco
S	Da'Norris Searcy	Tennessee
TE	Lee Smith	Oakland
RB	C.J. Spiller	New Orleans

MARIO WILLIAMS, LB/DE

2014 RESULTS (9-7)

Sept. 7	at Chicago (ot)	W	23-20
Sept. 14	Miami	W	29-10
Sept. 21	San Diego	L	10-22
Sept. 28	at Houston	L	17-23
Oct. 5	at Detroit	W	17-14
Oct. 12	New England	L	22-37
Oct. 19	Minnesota	W	17-16
Oct. 26	at N.Y. Jets	W	43-23
Nov. 9	Kansas City	L	13-17
Nov. 13	at Miami	L	9-22
Nov. 24	N.Y. Jets	W	38-3
Nov. 30	Cleveland	W	26-10
Dec. 7	at Denver	L	17-24
Dec. 14	Green Bay	W	21-13
Dec. 21	at Oakland	L	24-26
Dec. 28	at New England	W	17-9

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Kyle Orton	447	287	3,018	18	10
EJ Manuel	131	76	838	5	3
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Fred Jackson	141	525	3.7	2	
Anthony Dixon	105	432	4.1	2	
C.J. Spiller	78	300	3.8	0	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Fred Jackson	66	501	7.6	1	
Sammy Watkins	65	982	15.1	6	
Robert Woods	65	699	10.8	5	
Scott Chandler	47	497	10.6	3	
Chris Hogan	41	426	10.4	4	

KICKING: Dan Carpenter, 34-38 FGs, 31-32 PATs, 133 points
TACKLES: Preston Brown, 109; Nigel Bradham, 104
SACKS: Mario Williams, 14.5; Two players tied with 10.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Leodis McKelvin, 4; Two players tied with 3

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	318.5	26	13
Rushing	92.6	25	13
Passing	225.9	18	8
Scoring	21.4	18	11
Third Down %	36.7	26	12
Punt Returns	9.6	12	5
Kick Returns	23.3	T17	9
TEAM DEFENSE	**Stat**	**NFL Rank**	**AFC Rank**
Total	312.2	4	2
Rushing	106.4	11	7
Passing	205.8	3	2
Scoring	18.1	4	2
Interceptions	19	6	4
Sacks	54	1	1
Turnover Differential	+7	T6	3

Depth in the front seven is one reason Buffalo was able to deal star middle linebacker Kiko Alonso, who missed last season with a knee injury, to the Eagles for McCoy. The linebacker corps features young talents in Preston Brown, who led the team in tackles as a rookie with 109, and Nigel Bradham, who had 104. Ty Powell, Randell Johnson and rookie sixth-round pick Tony Steward will battle it out for playing time.

MARCELL DAREUS, DL

In the secondary, the Bills lost starters Jairus Byrd and Da'Norris Searcy the past two years in free agency but still have plenty on hand. The corner spots are manned by former first-round picks Stephon Gilmore and Leodis McKelvin, who combined for seven interceptions last year. McKelvin was having a strong season until sitting out the final six games with a broken ankle. Stepping in superbly was veteran Corey Graham, a free-agent signee who finished with a team-high 15 passes defended.

Aaron Williams, a 2011 second-round pick and former corner, has blossomed at strong safety and chipped in 76 tackles and five pass breakups. Third-year man Duke Williams will get the nod to replace Searcy at the free spot. Overall depth in the secondary remains a team strength, led by the likes of Ron Brooks, Nickell Robey and Bacarri Rambo, who intercepted Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers twice in a game last year. Things got even better when Buffalo spent its top pick in the draft on Florida State cornerback Ronald Darby.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Dan Carpenter set a franchise record with 34 field goals. The former Miami Dolphin has embraced the challenging weather conditions of Ralph Wilson Stadium. With Jordan Gay handling kickoffs, Carpenter can focus solely on the uprights. Punter Colton Schmidt was an August waiver find, and the California native also found an unlikely home, averaging 42.9 yards an effort with 31 dropped inside the 20. Return specialist Marcus Thigpen returns to handle punts and kickoffs.

FINAL ANALYSIS Ryan is the biggest coaching hire in Buffalo since Chuck Knox in the late 1970s, and expectations are high that the NFL's longest playoff drought will come to an end at 15 seasons. Nobody's toppling New England in the AFC East as long as Tom Brady is slinging passes, and landing a wild-card spot will take at least 10 wins. But the Bills got to nine last year and could finally knock down the door.

DRAFT *BILLS* IN THE DRAFT

C+

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
2.	Ronald Darby	CB	5-11	193	Florida State
3.	John Miller	OG	6-2	303	Louisville
5.	Karlos Williams	RB	6-1	230	Florida State
6.	Tony Steward	LB	6-0	235	Clemson
6.	Nick O'Leary	TE	6-3	252	Florida State
7.	Dezmin Lewis	WR	6-4	214	Central Arkansas

Last season's trade with Cleveland to select wide receiver Sammy Watkins cost Buffalo its first- and fourth-round picks in 2015. Given that kind of hit, the team's brain trust doesn't expect to find two or three immediate starters like past draft classes produced. However, Ronald Darby is the type of aggressive, sure-tackling cornerback that's needed to play Rex Ryan's press-style defense. He could contribute in special packages with an eye on replacing veteran Leodis McKelvin down the road. John Miller, a mauler from a Louisville program that produces technically sound blockers, has the best opportunity to start at a position that's wide open. Karlos Williams had a disappointing senior season at Florida State but averaged 8.0 yards per carry as a junior. Nick O'Leary, also a former Seminole, was highly productive as a pass-catching tight end. The grandson of golfing legend Jack Nicklaus caught 48 passes for 618 yards as a senior. Dezmin Lewis played at a small school but came up big against top competition.

Dareus: AP; Darby: Tom DiPace

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
16	Cassel, Matt	QB	6-4	228	10	USC	T-Min-15	D7-NE-05
3	Manuel, EJ	QB	6-4	237	2	Florida State	D1-13	D1-Buf-13
5	Taylor, Tyrod	QB	6-1	208	5	Virginia Tech	FA-Bal-15	D6-Bal-11
7	Tuel, Jeff	QB	6-3	221	2	Washington State	FA-13	FA-Buf-13

RUNNING BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
35	Brown, Bryce	RB	6-0	220	3	Kansas State	T-Phi-14	D7-Phi-12
26	Dixon, Boobie	RB	6-1	233	5	Mississippi State	FA-14	D6a-SF-10
42	Felton, Jerome	FB	6-0	248	7	Furman	FA-Min-15	D5-Det-08
48	Gray, MarQueis	FB	6-4	242	2	Minnesota	W-Min-14	FA-SF-13
25	McCoy, LeSean	RB	5-11	208	6	Pittsburgh	T-Phi-15	D2-Phi-09
22	Jackson, Fred	RB	6-1	216	8	Coe	FA-06	FA-Buf-06

RECEIVERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
19	Brown, Justin	WR	6-3	209	1	Oklahoma	W-Pit-15	D6a-Pit-13
85	Clay, Charles	TE	6-3	255	4	Tulsa	FA-Mia-15	D6-Mia-11
81	Easley, Marcus	WR	6-2	217	4	Connecticut	D4-10	D4-Buf-10
88	Goodwin, Marquise	WR	5-9	179	2	Texas	D3-13	D3-Buf-13
89	Gragg, Chris	TE	6-3	244	2	Arkansas	D7-13	D7-Buf-13
18	Harvin, Percy	WR	5-11	184	6	Florida	FA-NYJ-15	D1-Min-09
15	Hogan, Chris	WR	6-1	220	2	Monmouth	FA-12	FA-SF-11
86	Holley, Caleb	WR	6-2	200	1	East Central (OK)	FA-14	FA-Buf-14
17	Palmer, Tobais	WR	5-11	178	1	NC State	FA-14	FA-Jac-13
11	Thigpen, Marcus	WR	5-9	200	3	Indiana	W-TB-14	FA-Phi-09
80	Thompson, Deonte	WR	6-0	203	3	Florida	PS-Bal-14	FA-Bal-12
14	Watkins, Sammy	WR	6-1	211	1	Clemson	D1-14	D1-Buf-14
10	Woods, Robert	WR	6-0	190	2	USC	D2a-13	D2a-Buf-13

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
62	Campbell, William	G	6-4	311	1	Michigan	FA-14	D6-NYJ-13
77	Glenn, Cordy	T	6-6	345	3	Georgia	D2-12	D2-Buf-12
66	Henderson, Seantrel	T	6-7	331	1	Miami	D7b-14	D7b-Buf-14
64	Incognito, Richie	G	6-3	319	9	Nebraska	FA-15	D3-StL-05
63	Johnson, Darryl	G	6-4	295	1	New Mexico	FA-15	FA-SD-14
61	Kupper, Alex	G	6-3	299	1	Louisville	FA-15	FA-Hou-13
71	Kouandjio, Cyrus	T	6-7	322	1	Alabama	D2-14	D2-Buf-14
73	Morrell, D.J.	G	6-6	325	1	Old Dominion	FA-14	FA-Buf-14
68	Richardson, Cyril	G	6-5	343	1	Baylor	D5-14	D5-Buf-14
60	Urbik, Kraig	G	6-5	324	6	Wisconsin	W-Pit-10	D3-Pit-09
74	Williams, Chris	G	6-6	320	7	Vanderbilt	FA-StL-14	D1-Chi-08
70	Wood, Eric	C	6-4	310	6	Louisville	D1b-09	D1b-Buf-09

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
97	Bryant, Corbin	DT	6-4	300	2	Northwestern	FA-12	FA-Pit-11
98	Carrington, Alex	DT	6-5	301	5	Arkansas State	FA-StL-15	D3-Buf-10
96	Charles, Stefan	DT	6-5	323	2	Regina	FA-13	FA-Ten-13
99	Dareus, Marcell	DT	6-3	331	4	Alabama	D1-11	D1-Buf-11
55	Hughes, Jerry	DE	6-2	254	5	TCU	T-Ind-13	D1-Ind-10
98	Igbinosun, Ikponmwosa	DE	6-3	286	1	So. Conn. St.	FA-13	FA-Pit-12
93	Johnson, Bryan	DE	6-4	250	1	West Texas A&M	FA-14	FA-Buf-14
90	Towns, Jeremy	DT	6-4	290	1	Samford	FA-14	FA-Buf-14
95	Williams, Kyle	DT	6-1	303	9	LSU	D5a-06	D5a-Buf-06
94	Williams, Mario	DE	6-6	292	9	NC State	FA-Hou-12	D1-Hou-06
92	Wynn, Jarius	DE	6-3	285	6	Georgia	FA-14	D6-GB-09

LINEBACKERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
53	Bradham, Nigel	LB	6-2	241	3	Florida State	D4a-12	D4a-Buf-12
52	Brown, Preston	LB	6-1	251	1	Louisville	D3-14	D3-Buf-14
45	Gaines, Jimmy	LB	6-3	240	1	Miami	FA-14	FA-Buf-14
58	Johnson, Randell	LB	6-4	245	1	Florida Atlantic	D7a-14	D7a-Buf-14
91	Lawson, Manny	DE	6-5	240	9	NC State	FA-13	D1-SF-06
57	Powell, Ty	LB	6-2	249	2	Harding	FA-13	D7-Sea-13
58	Sylvester, Stevenson	LB	6-2	231	5	Utah	FA-14	D5-Pit-10

DEFENSIVE BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
33	Brooks, Ron	CB	5-10	190	3	LSU	D4b-12	D4b-Buf-12
46	Broomfield, Deon	S	6-0	206	1	Iowa State	FA-14	FA-Buf-14
30	Butler, Mario	CB	6-1	187	1	Georgia Tech	FA-13	FA-Dal-11
29	Cockrell, Ross	CB	6-0	190	1	Duke	D4-14	D4-Buf-14
24	Gilmore, Stephon	CB	6-1	190	3	South Carolina	D1-12	D1-Buf-12
20	Graham, Corey	CB	6-0	196	8	New Hampshire	FA-14	D5b-Chi-07
31	Ladler, Kenny	S	6-0	207	1	Vanderbilt	FA-14	FA-Buf-14
21	McKelvin, Leodis	CB	5-10	185	7	Troy	D1-08	D1-Buf-08
36	Meeks, Jonathan	S	6-0	209	2	Clemson	D5-13	D5-Buf-13
30	Rambo, Bacarri	S	6-0	211	2	Georgia	FA-14	D6-Was-13
37	Robey, Nickell	CB	5-8	165	2	USC	FA-13	FA-Buf-13
44	Sweeting, Rod	CB	6-0	187	2	Georgia Tech	FA-14	FA-NO-13
23	Williams, Aaron	S	6-0	199	4	Texas	D2-11	D2-Buf-11
27	Williams, Duke	S	5-11	201	2	Nevada	D4-13	D4-Buf-13

SPECIALISTS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
2	Carpenter, Dan	K	6-2	228	7	Montana	FA-13	FA-Mia-08
4	Gay, Jordan	K	6-1	200	1	Centre	W-Car-14	FA-Car-13
65	Sanborn, Garrison	LS	6-1	240	6	Florida State	FA-09	FA-Buf-09
6	Schmidt, Colton	P	5-11	224	1	California-Davis	FA-14	FA-SF-13

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	10	Robert Woods
	88	Marquise Goodwin
WR	14	Sammy Watkins
	18	Percy Harvin
LT	77	Cordy Glenn
	71	Cyrus Kouandjio
LG	74	Chris Williams
	68	Cyril Richardson
C	70	Eric Wood
	60	Kraig Urbik
RG	64	Richie Incognito
	76	John Miller (R)
RT	66	Seantrel Henderson
	71	Cyrus Kouandjio
TE	85	Charles Clay
	89	Chris Gragg
QB	16	Matt Cassel
	3	EJ Manuel
FB	42	Jerome Felton
	43	Corey Knox
RB	25	LeSean McCoy
	22	Fred Jackson

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	94	Mario Williams
	92	Jarius Wynn
NT	99	Marcell Dareus
	97	Corbin Bryant
DT	95	Kyle Williams
	96	Stefan Charles
DE	55	Jerry Hughes
	93	Bryan Johnson
OLB	52	Preston Brown
	91	Manny Lawson
MLB	57	Ty Powell
	50	Tony Steward (R)
OLB	53	Nigel Bradham
	91	Manny Lawson
CB	21	Leodis McKelvin
	33	Ron Brooks
CB	24	Stephon Gilmore
	20	Corey Graham
SS	23	Aaron Williams
	31	Kenny Ladler
FS	27	Duke Williams
	30	Bacarri Rambo

SPECIALISTS

K	2	Dan Carpenter
P	6	Colton Schmidt
KR	11	Marcus Thigpen
PR	11	Marcus Thigpen

SCOUTING THE BILLS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP BUFFALO "GM Doug Whaley and the organization have continued with their aggressive tactics to try and add more talent to this roster. They traded for LeSean McCoy and Matt Cassel, signed Charles Clay to an offer sheet as a restricted free agent, inked Richie Incognito and also brought Percy Harvin into the fold. And yet, the question still remains, is EJ Manuel the long-term answer at QB? If he's not, Cassel will serve as a stop-gap insurance policy. ... The OL is really ordinary to below average without a single big-time starter, although offseason reports indicate that left tackle Cordy Glenn is in the best shape of his career. ... Their defense is outstanding with quality players across the front, including tackles Marcell Dareus and Kyle Williams, plus edge rushers Mario Williams and Jerry Hughes. ... Buffalo gave up linebacker Kiko Alonso in the McCoy trade, but he missed the entire 2014 season with an ACL, and the D still finished fourth overall and first in third-down defense. ... The corners, Stephon Gilmore and Leodis McKelvin, should give Rex Ryan and defensive coordinator Dennis Thurman the freedom to use their pressure packages, while they added Florida State corner Ronald Darby in the second round as a potential nickel. ... With Rex's energy and ability to motivate, don't be surprised to see the Bills pull the new pieces together and break their 15-year playoff drought."

2015 SCHEDULE

					2014 NFL RANKINGS			
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	406.6 (3)	342.7 (11)	28.6 (6)	23.1 (19)
2	Sept. 20	New England	1:00	12-4	365.5 (11)	344.1 (13)	29.3 (4)	19.6 (8)
3	Sept. 27	at Miami	4:25	8-8	350.1 (14)	343.4 (12)	24.3 (11)	23.3 (20)
4	Oct. 4	N.Y. Giants	1:00	6-10	367.2 (10)	375.8 (29)	23.8 (13)	25.0 (22)
5	Oct. 11	at Tennessee	1:00	2-14	303.7 (29)	373.0 (27)	15.9 (30)	27.4 (30)
6	Oct. 18	Cincinnati	1:00	10-5-1	348.0 (15)	359.3 (22)	22.8 (15)	21.5 (12)
7	Oct. 25	vs. Jacksonville (London)	9:30 a.m.	3-13	289.6 (31)	370.8 (26)	15.6 (32)	25.8 (26)
8		BYE						
9	Nov. 8	Miami	1:00	8-8	350.1 (14)	343.4 (12)	24.3 (11)	23.3 (20)
10	Nov. 12	at N.Y. Jets (Thu.)	8:25	4-12	326.6 (22)	327.2 (6)	17.7 (28)	25.1 (24)
11	Nov. 23	at New England (Mon.)	8:30	12-4	365.5 (11)	344.1 (13)	29.3 (4)	19.6 (8)
12	Nov. 29	at Kansas City	1:00	9-7	318.8 (25)	330.5 (7)	22.1 (16)	17.6 (3)
13	Dec. 6	Houston	1:00	9-7	344.6 (17)	348.2 (16)	23.3 (14)	19.2 (7)
14	Dec. 13	at Philadelphia	1:00	10-6	396.8 (5)	375.6 (28)	29.6 (3)	25.0 (22)
15	Dec. 20	at Washington	1:00	4-12	358.6 (13)	357.0 (20)	18.8 (26)	27.4 (29)
16	Dec. 27	Dallas	1:00	12-4	383.6 (7)	355.1 (19)	29.2 (5)	22.0 (15)
17	Jan. 3	N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	326.6 (22)	327.2 (6)	17.7 (28)	25.1 (24)

MIAMI DOLPHINS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Joe Philbin
RECORD WITH TEAM: 23–25
CAREER RECORD: 23–25
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Bill Lazor
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Kevin Coyle
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Darren Rizzi
QUARTERBACKS: Zac Taylor
RUNNING BACKS: Jeff Nixon
WIDE RECEIVERS: Ken O'Keefe
TIGHT ENDS: Dan Campbell
OFFENSIVE LINE: John Benton
DEFENSIVE LINE: Terrell Williams
LINEBACKERS: Mark Duffner
DEFENSIVE BACKS: Lou Anarumo

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2010	7
2011	6
2012	7
2013	8
2014	8

LAMAR MILLER, RB

3 AFC EAST FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN/MANAGING GENERAL PARTNER: Stephen Ross
PRESIDENT/CEO: Tom Garfinkel
EXECUTIVE VP/FOOTBALL OPERATIONS: Mike Tannenbaum
GENERAL MANAGER: Dennis Hickey
STADIUM: Sun Life Stadium (75,540)
SURFACE: Prescription Athletic Turf
WEBSITE: www.miamidolphins.com
TICKETS: 888-FINS-TIX
TRAINING CAMP: Miami Dolphins Training Facility (Davie, Fla.)

Once among the perennial elite, the Dolphins have been largely irrelevant for quite a while now, without a playoff win since Dec. 30, 2000. While the fans are long past impatient, owner Stephen Ross leaned toward a youth movement in the offseason. "I wouldn't want to be getting old veterans to win that year and then get back to where we were," Ross says. "I want to build something that is going to be a dynasty that people want to see year in and year out."

That's not to say Ross spent the past several months sitting idle. Yes, he kept his embattled coach, Joe Philbin, and Philbin kept both of his coordinators, Bill Lazor on offense and Kevin Coyle on defense. But the front office was overhauled, with former Jets executive Mike Tannenbaum hired to oversee an operation that still includes general manager Dennis Hickey. And the team may have as many as 10 new starters, including the prize of the free-agent market, defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, who signed a six-year, $114 million contract with nearly $60 million guaranteed. "This is obviously a great day," Suh said at his introductory press conference. "And there's obviously many more to come after that."

How soon? We'll see.

OFFENSE It got largely lost due to the team's lack of overall progress, but the Dolphins did make gains on offense last season, with their best yardage ranking (14th) since 2008 and best points ranking (11th) since 2001, which happen to be the franchise's last two playoff seasons.

They should make more strides, now that Lazor has had more than a year to implement his schemes — with some use of the read option — and increase the unit's tempo, something that didn't occur as planned last season. Much of that will fall on Ryan Tannehill, who seems to be a quarterback on the rise. "The good news is he's gotten better every year," Philbin says.

That's supported by the statistics, as the third-year player posted his highest passer rating (92.8) largely due to a dramatic increase in completion percentage (60.4 to 66.4). And yet, his yards-per-completion continued its decline, from 11.7 as a rookie to 11.0 in his second season to 10.3 in his third. While it wise for the Dolphins to play to his strengths, Tannehill still needs to become more accurate with his deep throws to make the Dolphins a truly dynamic attack.

He won't be trying to connect with Mike Wallace anymore. After two expensive and uneven seasons, Wallace was sent to Minnesota to make way for a younger, cheaper core. Miami will have three receivers in their regular rotation who are under 24 years old, including Kenny Stills, a speedy import from New Orleans who had 63 catches on 85 targets last season, compared to 67 on 115 for Wallace.

Stills' presence on the outside, along with the development of first-round pick DeVante Parker, should allow Jarvis Landry and new tight end Jordan Cameron to exploit the middle. As a rookie, the hard-working Landry showed terrific instincts and good hands, catching 84 passes, albeit for just 9.0 yards per catch. That number should increase, if Tannehill can sit back in the pocket a little longer — he took 46 sacks, down 12 from the previous season but still too high. It's remarkable that Tannehill has started every game in three straight seasons.

Branden Albert solidified the left tackle spot prior to a season-ending knee injury, so his return to full health is critical. With Albert, center Mike Pouncey (newly signed to a lucrative extension) and right tackle Ja'Wuan James (coming off a good rookie season), Miami appears settled at three spots. The guard spots are in flux; the Dolphins may need fourth-round rookie Jamil Douglas to step in immediately.

They'll be blocking for Lamar Miller, who had some ups and downs after taking over as the primary ball carrier. Miller, however, finished strong with 270 yards in the season's final two weeks. Now the question is whether he can handle an even greater load; he averaged 5.1 yards per carry but never had more than 19 attempts. There's questionable depth at the position.

DEFENSE Coming off a tumultuous season — with players questioning the coordinator (Coyle) — the Dolphins invested heavily in Suh to instill some fear in opposing offenses. While he's created controversy with some of his on-field antics, there's never been any question about Suh's ability, not only to disrupt running and passing plays but also to make his teammates better. A few of his teammates are already pretty good, notably defensive ends Cameron Wake (57.5 sacks over the past five seasons) and Olivier Vernon (18 sacks over the past two seasons), cornerback Brent Grimes (coming off two straight Pro Bowls) and safety Reshad Jones (who had a bounce-back year). And defensive tackle Earl Mitchell should be

Tom DiPace

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

IN THE AIR TONIGHT Greg Jennings teased some during his free agent visits, tweeting about a Jaguar dealership while visiting Jacksonville. But, after picking Miami, he tweeted a photo of himself dressed (short afro and all) as a smiling Ricardo Tubbs from the 1980s hit, "Miami Vice." In the photoshopped post, quarterback Ryan Tannehill looked like a confused version of Sonny Crockett.

TIME TO TAKE THE TOWN? The Dolphins' popularity has waned in recent years due to a prolonged period of mediocrity and the presence of LeBron James on the Heat. But with James gone, the Heat missed the playoffs for the first time since 2008, meaning all four pro teams in South Florida fell short of the postseason in their most recent cycle. That makes the area ripe for a football revival.

CAREER IN OVERDRIVE The Uber app is popular with many athletes who use it instead of cabs. But most use it for rides. A.J. Francis, a backup defensive tackle, took a different approach this offseason, applying to be a driver. As he explained to his Twitter followers, "You know what's better than NFL money? More money." Francis told The Ticket Miami, a sports radio station, that he hoped he got to pick up some teammates because he knew they would be able to pay.

TUNA SQUISH Bill Parcells ran the Dolphins' drafts in 2008 and 2009, and the current regime's release of receiver Brian Hartline means that not a single player remains from either of Parcells' two draft classes. Ten of the 18 players were on NFL rosters at some point last season.

NEW LOOK FOR OLD HOME This offseason, the Dolphins embarked on a $400 million renovation to what, since 2010, has been called Sun Life Stadium. The project replaced all the old seats, while reducing capacity to 65,000 and adding VIP "living rooms." Fans will be 25 feet closer to the field, as the franchise tries to create a modernized version of the rowdier Orange Bowl environment.

GOOD RIDDANCE? During an interview with CBS 4 in Miami, Dolphins center Mike Pouncey and his brother, Steelers center Maurkice Pouncey, seemed to take shots at former Dolphins receiver Mike Wallace, who was either benched or simply quit prior to the second half of Miami's last regular-season game. Mike said: "It was the right move for everybody." Maurkice added: "In my opinion, he's a coward." But since the aired clip didn't include the question, the Pounceys later denied they were talking about Wallace.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
CB	Zack Bowman	N.Y. Giants
TE	Jordan Cameron	Cleveland
WR	Greg Jennings	Minnesota
CB	Bryce McCain	Pittsburgh
WR	Kenny Stills	New Orleans
DT	Ndamukong Suh	Detroit

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
TE	Charles Clay	Buffalo
CB	Cortland Finnegan	Retired
WR	Brian Hartline	Cleveland
DL	Jared Odrick	Jacksonville
DL	Randy Stark	Cleveland
WR	Mike Wallace	Minnesota

RYAN TANNEHILL, QB

2014 RESULTS (8-8)

Sept. 7	New England	W	33-20
Sept. 14	at Buffalo	L	10-29
Sept. 21	Kansas City	L	15-34
Sept. 28	at Oakland	W	38-14
Oct. 12	Green Bay	L	24-27
Oct. 19	at Chicago	W	27-14
Oct. 26	at Jacksonville	W	27-13
Nov. 2	San Diego	W	37-0
Nov. 9	at Detroit	L	16-20
Nov. 13	Buffalo	W	22-9
Nov. 23	at Denver	L	36-39
Dec. 1	at N.Y. Jets	W	16-13
Dec. 7	Baltimore	L	13-28
Dec. 14	at New England	L	13-41
Dec. 21	Minnesota	W	37-35
Dec. 28	N.Y. Jets	L	24-37

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Ryan Tannehill	590	392	4,045	27	12
RUSHING	**ATT**		**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Lamar Miller	216		1,099	5.1	8
Ryan Tannehill	56		311	5.6	1
Daniel Thomas	44		168	3.8	2
Damien Williams	36		122	3.4	0
RECEIVING	**REC**		**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Jarvis Landry	84		758	9.0	5
Mike Wallace	67		862	12.9	10
Charles Clay	58		605	10.4	3
Brian Hartline	39		474	12.2	2
Lamar Miller	38		275	7.2	1

KICKING: Caleb Sturgis, 29-37 FGs, 41-41 PATs, 128 points
TACKLES: Jelani Jenkins, 110; Reshad Jones, 80
SACKS: Cameron Wake, 11.5; Oliver Vernon, 6.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Brent Grimes, 5; Reshad Jones, 3

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	350.1	14	6
Rushing	117.0	12	6
Passing	233.1	17	7
Scoring	24.2	11	6
Third Down %	40.0	17	7
Punt Returns	8.2	17	8
Kick Returns	26.4	6	5

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	343.4	12	8
Rushing	121.1	24	11
Passing	222.3	6	4
Scoring	23.3	20	12
Interceptions	14	T14	7
Sacks	39	T16	T9
Turnover Differential	+2	T14	T6

a solid complement to Suh, holding up blockers and helping to stuff the run.

But plenty of others will need to exceed expectations for the Dolphins to improve from their 2014 rankings (20th in points, 12th in yardage). That starts with the entire linebacker group. Koa Misi is serviceable in the middle, and Jelani Jenkins was a positive surprise as a fourth-round pick in 2013. But there's no clear playmaker in the group, especially after the Dion Jordan experiment failed. Jordan, the No. 3 pick in the 2013 draft, was a disappointment for two seasons and will miss the 2015 campaign due to a failed drug test.

In the secondary, veteran safety Louis Delmas returns after ACL surgery, and either Jamar Taylor or Will Davis will need to emerge as a consistent complement to Grimes at corner to allow newcomer Brice McCain play the nickel. Miami allowed opposing quarterbacks to compile an 89.7 passer rating last season, with 27 touchdowns and 14 interceptions — not the league's worst, but not contender material.

CAMERON WAKE, DE

SPECIALISTS Two seasons into his NFL career, Caleb Sturgis still hasn't cemented his status, not after making 77.5 percent of his field-goal attempts, including 20-of-33 from 40 yards or more. If he's not better, he'll likely be replaced. Brandon Fields didn't have his best season, with his lowest percentage (36.2) of punts inside the 20-yard-line since 2009, and he was in danger of being released prior to restructuring his contract. Landry was the primary punt and kickoff returner last season and — a couple of hiccups aside — did decent work. Ideally, though, the Dolphins would like more of a burner at those spots to save Landry for his receiving duties. So that search will continue.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Dolphins have been stuck in the middle, or just below, for so long that it's hard to predict anything better than a .500 finish. But if Tannehill can make another leap, and Suh can energize what was at times a listless defense, there's potential here to squeak out 10 wins. Philbin may need that many to retain his job, even though Ross signed the coach to an extension through 2016 to remove the perception of lame-duck status. "There has to be improvement," Ross added, after the announcement. "I'm looking to make the playoffs, and I think Joe is looking to make the playoffs." Otherwise, this team may look even more different in 2016.

DRAFT 2015 DOLPHINS IN THE DRAFT

B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	DeVante Parker	WR	6-3	209	Louisville
2.	Jordan Phillips	DT	6-5	329	Oklahoma
4.	Jamil Douglas	OG	6-4	304	Arizona State
5.	Bobby McCain	CB	5-9	195	Memphis
5.	Jay Ajayi	RB	6-0	221	Boise State
5.	Cedric Thompson	S	6-0	208	Minnesota
5.	Tony Lippett	WR	6-2	192	Michigan State

After trading Mike Wallace, Miami needed another outside target to allow Jarvis Landry to work from the slot. The Dolphins stayed put in their draft position and took the physical DeVante Parker, whose measurables suggest that he can be a star. They'll need him to live up to that potential, and preferably soon. The Dolphins moved down and took defensive tackle Jordan Phillips, an Oklahoma Sooner who has first-round talent — with unusual athleticism for his size but also an inconsistent motor. Jamil Douglas will compete at left guard. Bobby McCain and Jay Ajayi both had knee trouble in college. McCain will compete for a role in the nickel package, while Ajayi, who was highly productive as the feature back at Boise State, will try to prove that he can be the power complement to Lamar Miller. Tony Lippett had a monster senior season at Michigan State, averaging 18.4 yards on his 65 receptions for 1,198 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Wake: Tom DiPace; Parker: Bruce Schwartzman

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
6	Bethel-Thompson, McLeod	QB	6-4	230	3	Sacramento State	FA-14	FA-SF-11
5	Freeman, Josh	QB	6-6	240	5	Kansas State	FA-15	D1-TB-09
8	Moore, Matt	QB	6-3	220	8	Oregon State	FA-Car-11	FA-Dal-07
17	Tannehill, Ryan	QB	6-4	220	3	Texas A&M	D1-12	D1-Mia-12
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
23	Gillislee, Mike	RB	5-11	216	2	Florida	D5a-13	D5a-Mia-13
33	James, LaMichael	RB	5-9	195	3	Oregon	FA-14	D2-SF-12
26	Miller, Lamar	RB	5-10	224	3	Miami	D4-12	D4-Mia-12
34	Williams, Damien	RB	5-11	221	1	Oklahoma	FA-14	FA-Mia-14
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
81	Byrd, LaRon	WR	6-4	220	2	Miami	FA-15	FA-Ari-12
84	Cameron, Jordan	TE	6-5	249	4	USC	FA-Cle-15	D4a-Cle-11
83	Hazel, Matt	WR	6-1	202	1	Coastal Carolina	D6-14	D6-Mia-14
85	Jennings, Greg	WR	6-0	195	9	Western Michigan	FA-Min-15	D2b-GB-06
14	Landry, Jarvis	WR	5-11	202	1	LSU	D2-14	D2-Mia-14
88	Lynch, Arthur	TE	6-5	255	1	Georgia	D5-14	D5-Mia-14
18	Matthews, Rishard	WR	6-0	215	3	Nevada	D7b-12	D7b-Mia-12
15	McDonald, Tyler	WR	6-3	190	1	South Carolina St.	FA-15	FA-NE-14
19	Preston, Michael	WR	6-5	213	2	Heidelberg	FA-15	FA-Ten-11
89	Robinson, Gerell	TE	6-4	220	1	Arizona State	FA-14	FA-Den-12
80	Sims, Dion	TE	6-4	265	2	Michigan State	D4b-13	D4b-Mia-13
10	Stills, Kenny	WR	6-0	194	2	Oklahoma	T-NO-15	D5-NO-13
86	Stoneburner, Jake	TE	6-3	249	2	Ohio State	FA-14	FA-GB-13
82	Taylor, Ryan	TE	6-3	254	4	North Carolina	FA-Cle-15	D7-GB-11
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
71	Albert, Branden	T	6-5	310	7	Virginia	FA-KC-14	D1b-KC-08
65	Brenner, Sam	C	6-2	310	2	Utah	FA-14	FA-Mia-13
74	Fox, Jason	T	6-6	310	5	Miami	FA-Det-14	D4-Det-10
70	James, Ja'Wuan	T	6-6	315	1	Tennessee	D1-14	D1-Mia-14
72	Linkenbach, Jeff	OL	6-6	325	5	Cincinnati	FA-KC-15	FA-Ind-10
66	McClendon, Jacques	G	6-3	324	3	Tennessee	FA-Jac-15	D4-Ind-10
51	Pouncey, Mike	C	6-5	305	4	Florida	D1-11	D1-Mia-11
63	Thomas, Dallas	G	6-5	315	2	Tennessee	D3a-13	D3a-Mia-13
77	Turner, Billy	G	6-5	313	1	North Dakota St.	D3-14	D3-Mia-14
59	Walton, J.D.	C	6-3	305	5	Baylor	FA-NYG-15	D3-Den-10
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
62	Coleman, Deandre	DT	6-3	315	1	California	FA-14	FA-Jac-14
78	Fede, Terrence	DE	6-4	282	1	Marist	D7-14	D7-Mia-14
96	Francis, A.J.	DT	6-5	330	1	Maryland	FA-13	FA-Mia-13
76	Johnson, Anthony	DT	6-2	304	1	LSU	FA-14	FA-Mia-14
73	Johnson, Kamal	DT	6-3	314	1	Temple	FA-14	FA-Mia-14
95	Jordan, Dion	DE	6-6	275	2	Oregon	D1-13	D1-Mia-13
90	Mitchell, Earl	DT	6-3	310	5	Arizona	FA-Hou-14	D3-Hou-10
79	Shelby, Derrick	DE	6-2	282	3	Utah	FA-12	FA-Mia-12
93	Suh, Ndamukong	DT	6-4	305	5	Nebraska	FA-Det-15	D1a-Det-10
50	Vernon, Olivier	DE	6-2	268	3	Miami	D3a-12	D3a-Mia-12
91	Wake, Cameron	DE	6-3	262	6	Penn State	FA-09	FA-NYG-05
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
53	Jenkins, Jelani	LB	6-0	245	2	Florida	D4a-13	D4a-Mia-13
45	Knott, Jake	LB	6-2	243	2	Iowa State	FA-14	FA-Phi-13
58	McCain, Chris	LB	6-5	250	1	California	FA-14	FA-Mia-14
55	Misi, Koa	LB	6-3	252	5	Utah	D2-10	D2-Mia-10
42	Paysinger, Spencer	LB	6-2	236	4	Oregon	FA-NYG-15	FA-NYG-11
97	Sheppard, Kelvin	LB	6-2	256	4	LSU	FA-Ind-15	D3-Buf-11
57	Tripp, Jordan	LB	6-3	240	1	Montana	D5b-14	D5b-Mia-14
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
35	Aikens, Walt	S	6-1	210	1	Liberty	D4-14	D4-Mia-14
30	Bowman, Zack	CB	6-1	196	7	Nebraska	FA-NYG-15	D5a-Chi-08
29	Davis, Will	CB	5-11	190	2	Utah State	D3b-13	D3b-Mia-13
25	Delmas, Louis	S	5-11	210	6	Western Michigan	FA-Det-14	D2-Det-09
32	Gary, Shamiel	S	6-0	205	1	Oklahoma State	FA-15	FA-NE-14
21	Grimes, Brent	CB	5-10	190	8	Shippensburg	FA-Atl-13	FA-Atl-07
38	Jones, Don	S	5-11	205	2	Arkansas State	W-NE-14	D7-Mia-13
20	Jones, Reshad	S	6-1	215	5	Georgia	D5b-10	D5b-Mia-10
44	Kovacs, Jordan	S	5-10	210	2	Michigan	FA-14	FA-Mia-13
24	McCain, Brice	CB	5-9	187	6	Utah	FA-Pit-15	D6-Hou-09
37	Seamster, Sammy	CB	6-0	205	1	Middle Tennessee	W-Bal-14	FA-Bal-14
22	Taylor, Jamar	CB	5-10	200	2	Boise State	D2-13	D2-Mia-13
31	Thomas, Michael	S	5-11	201	1	Stanford	FA-13	FA-SF-12
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
92	Denney, John	LS	6-5	252	10	Brigham Young	FA-05	FA-Mia-05
2	Fields, Brandon	P	6-5	249	8	Michigan State	D7b-07	D7b-Mia-07
9	Sturgis, Caleb	K	5-9	190	2	Florida	D5b-13	D5b-Mia-13

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	10	Kenny Stills
	11	DeVante Parker (R)
WR	14	Jarvis Landry
	18	Rishard Matthews
WR	85	Greg Jennings
	11	DeVante Parker (R)
LT	71	Branden Albert
	70	Ja'Wuan James
LG	63	Dallas Thomas
	75	Jamil Douglas (R)
C	51	Mike Pouncey
	59	J.D. Walton
RG	77	Billy Turner
	72	Jeff Linkenbach
RT	70	Ja'Wuan James
	74	Jason Fox
TE	84	Jordan Cameron
	80	Dion Sims
QB	17	Ryan Tannehill
	8	Matt Moore
RB	26	Lamar Miller
	34	Damien Williams

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	91	Cameron Wake
	79	Derrick Shelby
DT	90	Earl Mitchell
	96	A.J. Francis
DT	93	Ndamukong Suh
	97	Jordan Phillips (R)
DE	50	Olivier Vernon
	78	Terrence Fede
OLB	53	Jelani Jenkins
	42	Spencer Paysinger (R)
MLB	55	Koa Misi
	52	Kelvin Sheppard
OLB	58	Chris McCain
	57	Jordan Tripp
CB	21	Brent Grimes
	29	Will Davis
CB	22	Jamar Taylor
	24	Brice McCain
SS	20	Reshad Jones
	35	Walt Aikens
FS	25	Louis Delmas
	44	Jordan Kovacs

SPECIALISTS

K	2	Brandon Fields
P	9	Caleb Sturgis
KR	14	Jarvis Landry
PR	14	Jarvis Landry

SCOUTING THE DOLPHINS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP MIAMI "Owner Stephen Ross brought in former NY Jets GM Mike Tannenbaum to evaluate and determine the fates of head coach Joe Philbin and GM Dennis Hickey following the 2015 season. ... It's a one-year trial for them and a huge season for Ryan Tannehill. ... The Dolphins wanted to make a splash, and they did so in free agency by signing Ndamukong Suh to the richest defensive player deal in league history. He is a major talent, and the expectation is that he will help control the run game and pressure the interior of the pocket, especially against New England. ... Defensive ends Cameron Wake and Olivier Vernon are maybe the most underrated pair of pass rushers in the league, but the linebackers are second-rate, and someone has to step up at corner opposite of Brent Grimes. ... Offensively, Miami lost tight end Charles Clay as a restricted free agent to Buffalo. He is a significant loss for Tannehill because the Dolphins also shipped Mike Wallace to Minnesota. ... None of their running backs scare anybody, so Boise State product Jay Ajayi could get on the field right away despite a knee issue that deflated his draft stock. ... Jarvis Landry was a nice second-round find last year out of LSU and caught 84 passes as a rookie, but the hope is that No. 1 pick DeVante Parker can become the complete receiver Tannehill has lacked."

2015 SCHEDULE

Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	2014 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	at Washington	1:00	4-12	358.6 (13)	357.0 (20)	18.8 (26)	27.4 (29)
2	Sept. 20	at Jacksonville	4:05	3-13	289.6 (31)	370.8 (26)	15.6 (32)	25.8 (26)
3	Sept. 27	Buffalo	4:25	9-7	318.5 (26)	312.2 (4)	21.4 (18)	18.1 (4)
4	Oct. 4	vs. N.Y. Jets (London)	9:30a.m.	4-12	326.6 (22)	327.2 (6)	17.7 (28)	25.1 (24)
5		BYE						
6	Oct. 18	at Tennessee	1:00	2-14	303.7 (29)	373.0 (27)	15.9 (30)	27.4 (30)
7	Oct. 25	Houston	1:00	9-7	344.6 (17)	348.2 (16)	23.3 (14)	19.2 (7)
8	Oct. 29	at New England (Thu.)	8:25	12-4	365.5 (11)	344.1 (13)	29.3 (4)	19.6 (8)
9	Nov. 8	at Buffalo	1:00	9-7	318.5 (26)	312.2 (4)	21.4 (18)	18.1 (4)
10	Nov. 15	at Philadelphia	1:00	10-6	396.8 (5)	375.6 (28)	29.6 (3)	25.0 (22)
11	Nov. 22	Dallas	1:00	12-4	383.6 (7)	355.1 (19)	29.2 (5)	22.0 (15)
12	Nov. 29	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	326.6 (22)	327.2 (6)	17.7 (28)	25.1 (24)
13	Dec. 6	Baltimore	1:00	10-6	364.9 (12)	336.9 (8)	25.6 (8)	18.9 (6)
14	Dec. 14	N.Y. Giants (Mon.)	8:30	6-10	367.2 (10)	375.8 (29)	23.8 (13)	25.0 (22)
15	Dec. 20	at San Diego	4:25	9-7	341.6 (18)	338.3 (9)	21.8 (17)	21.8 (13)
16	Dec. 27	Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	406.6 (3)	342.7 (11)	28.6 (6)	23.1 (19)
17	Jan. 3	New England	1:00	12-4	365.5 (11)	344.1 (13)	29.3 (4)	19.6 (8)

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

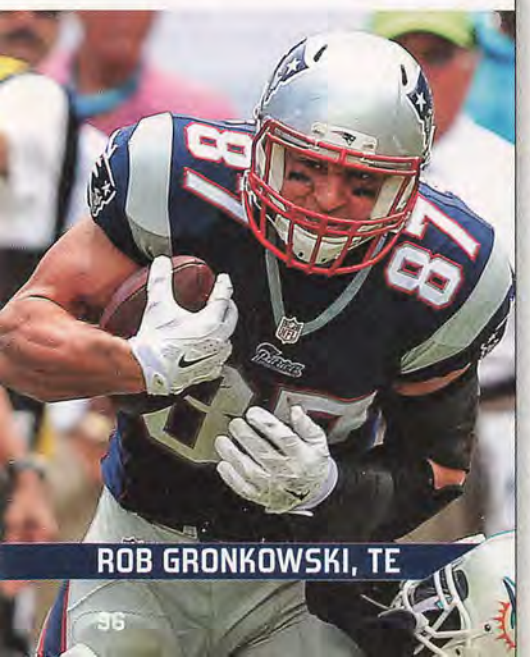
THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Bill Belichick
RECORD WITH TEAM: 175–65
CAREER RECORD: 211–109
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR/QUARTERBACKS: Josh McDaniels
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Matt Patricia
RUNNING BACKS: Ivan Fears
WIDE RECEIVERS: Chad O'Shea
TIGHT ENDS: Brian Daboll
OFFENSIVE LINE: Dave DeGuglielmo
DEFENSIVE LINE: TBA
LINEBACKERS: Patrick Graham
CORNERBACKS: Josh Boyer
SAFETIES: Brian Flores
SPECIAL TEAMS: Joe Judge

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2010	14
2011	13
2012	12
2013	12
2014	12

Playoffs AFC Champion Super Bowl Champion



ROB GRONKOWSKI, TE

1 AFC EAST FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN/CEO: Robert Kraft
PRESIDENT: Jonathan Kraft
DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL: Nick Caserio
GENERAL MANAGER: Bill Belichick
STADIUM: Gillette Stadium (68,756)
SURFACE: FieldTurf
WEBSITE: www.patriots.com
TICKETS: 800-543-1776
TRAINING CAMP: Gillette Stadium (Foxboro, Mass.)

The Patriots have been a part of the NFL's ruling class for the better part of the last 14 seasons, winning 12 AFC East titles, six conference titles and four Super Bowls. The AFC has long taken aim at Tom Brady, Bill Belichick and Co., and it appeared the Patriots were on the ropes last season at 2–2 after a 41–14 dismantling in Kansas City. Brady looked old, Rob Gronkowski wasn't 100 percent, the offensive line was in disarray and the defense was below average.

But New England rose from the dead, won its sixth straight division title and captured its fourth Super Bowl title in thrilling fashion against the Seahawks. The Patriots remain an upper-echelon team, but free agency took a serious toll on the defense. And perennial Pro Bowlers Ndamukong Suh (Dolphins), LeSean McCoy (Bills), Brandon Marshall (Jets) and Darrelle Revis (Jets) all joined division rivals in the offseason. The Pats are AFC East favorites, but the gap is narrowing.

OFFENSE Brady, the three-time Super Bowl MVP, will turn 38 in the preseason. His dedication to fitness has allowed him to maintain his elite level of production and has even improved his one major weakness — mobility. Brady picked up 11 first downs on the ground in 2014, his second-highest total of the last six seasons, and he was more willing to scramble than in previous years.

With Brady supsended for up to four games to start the 2015 season, the Patriots can turn to Jimmy Garoppolo, the team's second-round pick in 2014 who threw 27 passes as a rookie, or they could sign a veteran to plug into the lineup as a stopgap.

If Brady is the No. 1 piece to the Patriots offense, Gronkowski stands firmly at 1A. The big tight end from the University of Arizona has had an enormous effect on the team — when healthy. The best illustration of his impact may have been last fall. Gronkowski played less than half the snaps in the first four games of the season as he continued to recover from knee surgery, and he sat out the season finale against Buffalo when the Patriots had wrapped up the No. 1 seed. In those five games, the Patriots averaged 17.8 points and went 2–3. In their other 14 games, including the playoffs, the Patriots averaged 34.8 points and went 13–1.

The threat of Gronkowski makes the receiving corps of Julian Edelman, Brandon LaFell and Danny Amendola much more dangerous than it would otherwise be, as defenses dedicate multiple linebackers and/or safeties to him. The Patriots added another receiving tight end in the offseason, signing Scott Chandler from Buffalo. Tim Wright never emerged as the second receiving tight end Belichick likes to feature after the Pats traded Logan Mankins for him, so look for Chandler to get that chance.

The offensive line is missing one starter in Dan Connolly, who started at guard but also saw time at center. Connolly remains a free agent, and the Patriots could bring him back. Tackles Nate Solder and Sebastian Vollmer and center Bryan Stork are all plus-players at their positions. Guard play is a bit of an issue.

At running back, the Patriots lost Shane Vereen and Stevan Ridley in free agency. Vereen emerged as a critical piece of the offensive arsenal, outgrowing his third-down role and becoming an every-down contributor. He played three times the snaps of any other running back on the team in the regular season and 50 of the 74 snaps in the Super Bowl, according to ESPNBoston. James White is the early candidate to be the pass-catching, third-down back, while LeGarrette Blount, Jonas Gray and Brandon Bolden will handle the work between the tackles.

DEFENSE Three key starters departed in free agency, leaving some significant questions as the season approaches. Revis (Jets) and fellow cornerback Brandon Browner (Saints) will need to be replaced, and the defensive philosophy the Patriots employed the last three seasons will likely be altered as well. With Revis last season and Aqib Talib in 2012 and '13, the Patriots had a lockdown corner who allowed them to play man-to-man on the opponent's best receiver and let the rest of the secondary handle the remainder of the field. Logan Ryan and Super Bowl hero Malcolm Butler are not in the class of Revis or Talib, so expect much more zone. The Patriots did invest in safety Devin McCourty with a five-year contract, and fellow safety Patrick Chung was also re-signed, but the cornerback situation bears watching.

Defensive tackle Vince Wilfork is the third starter who needs to be replaced after he departed for Houston after a highly successful 11-year run in New England that included five Pro Bowls. The 325-pounder bounced back from a ruptured Achilles in 2013 and played

Gronkowski, Brady: Tom DiPace; Cheerleader: AP

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

TOP BILLING Bill Belichick has 22 career playoff victories, which are more than the combined total of two Hall of Fame coaches who also have the first name Bill. Bill Walsh, who coached the 49ers to three Super Bowl titles in 10 years, recorded 10 playoff wins. Bill Parcells, who won two Super Bowls with the Giants, won 11 playoff games in his 19 years as a head coach. Belichick and Parcells matched up once in the playoffs, with Belichick's Browns defeating Parcells' Patriots 20–13 in January 1995.

YES, THEY WILL MEET AGAIN Tom Brady and Peyton Manning are scheduled to meet for the 17th time on Nov. 29 when the Patriots visit Denver. Brady holds an 11–5 edge over Manning, including 3–1 since Manning joined the Broncos. Manning's lone win with Denver, however, was in the AFC Championship Game in 2013. The home QB has won the last six matchups. Brady or Manning has represented the AFC in the Super Bowl in nine of the last 14 years.

A BUSY BUTLER So what happens when you go from anonymity to Super Bowl hero? Malcolm Butler found out after making the game-saving interception against the Seahawks at the goal line with 20 seconds left. There were appearances on "SportsCenter," of course, but also "Good Morning America" and "The Today Show." He also went to Disneyland with Julian Edelman, then presented an award at the Grammys with Edelman and actor Josh Duhamel. He was honored with Malcolm Butler Day at the University of West Alabama and was given a parade in his hometown of Vicksburg, Miss. He dropped the puck at an AHL game in Worcester, Mass., before an autograph session, and wrapped up his offseason with the birth of his first son 11 days before the Patriots' trip to the White House in late April.

SUPER TOM Brady's four-touchdown performance in the Super Bowl gave him the all-time lead in Super Bowl touchdown passes with 13, surpassing his boyhood idol, Joe Montana. Other Brady Super Bowl records: Most starts by a QB (six), career passing yards (1,605), career completions (164), single-game completions (37 vs. Seattle) and career attempts (247).

LIMPING TO THE FINISH Under Belichick, the Patriots have struggled protecting fourth-quarter leads in the Super Bowl and almost blew another in February. New England has surrendered a touchdown on eight of 14 possessions (57 percent) in such situations, compared with eight TDs on the other 50 possessions in the six Super Bowls (16 percent).

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
TE	Scott Chandler	Buffalo
CB	Bradley Fletcher	Philadelphia
WR	Brandon Gibson	Miami
CB	Robert McClain	Atlanta
DL	Jabaal Sheard	Cleveland

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
CB	Brandon Browner	New Orleans
G	Dan Connolly	Free Agent
CB	Darrelle Revis	Jets
RB	Stevan Ridley	Jets
RB	Shane Vereen	Giants
DT	Vince Wilfork	Houston

TOM BRADY, QB

2014 RESULTS (12-4)

Sept. 7	at Miami	L	20-33
Sept. 14	at Minnesota	W	30-7
Sept. 21	Oakland	W	16-9
Sept. 29	at Kansas City	L	14-41
Oct. 5	Cincinnati	W	43-17
Oct. 12	at Buffalo	W	37-22
Oct. 16	N.Y. Jets	W	27-25
Oct. 26	Chicago	W	51-23
Nov. 2	Denver	W	43-21
Nov. 16	at Indianapolis	W	42-20
Nov. 23	Detroit	W	34-9
Nov. 30	at Green Bay	L	21-26
Dec. 7	at San Diego	W	23-14
Dec. 14	Miami	W	41-13
Dec. 21	at N.Y. Jets	W	17-16
Dec. 28	Buffalo	L	9-17
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 10	Baltimore	W	35-31
Jan. 18	Indianapolis	W	45-7
Feb. 1	Seattle	W	28-24

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Tom Brady	582	373	4,109	33	9
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Shane Vereen	96	391	4.1	2	
Stevan Ridley	94	340	3.6	2	
Jonas Gray	89	412	4.6	5	
LeGarrette Blount	60	281	4.7	3	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Julian Edelman	92	972	10.6	4	
Rob Gronkowski	82	1,124	13.7	12	
Brandon LaFell	74	953	12.9	7	
Shane Vereen	52	447	8.6	3	
Danny Amendola	27	200	7.4	1	

KICKING: Stephen Gostkowski, 35-37 FGs, 51-51 PATs, 156 points
TACKLES: Jamie Collins, 116; Dont'a Hightower, 89
SACKS: Rob Ninkovich, 8.0; two players tied with 6.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Four players tied with 2

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	365.5	11	4
Rushing	107.9	18	10
Passing	257.6	9	4
Scoring	29.2	4	2
Third Down %	44.3	6	3
Punt Returns	10.5	10	3
Kick Returns	22.4	11	21

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	344.1	13	9
Rushing	104.3	9	5
Passing	239.8	17	11
Scoring	19.6	8	5
Interceptions	16	T12	6
Sacks	40	T13	8
Turnover Differential	+12	T2	T1

74 percent of the defensive snaps, far and away New England's leader along the line. First-round draft pick Malcom Brown will be given an opportunity to step right in and compete with veterans Sealver Siliga and Alan Branch. Second-year pro Dominique Easley will be expected to take a larger role at the other defensive tackle spot. Rob Ninkovich and Chandler Jones are back at defensive end, two players who have had their moments but can also disappear for stretches.

JULIAN EDELMAN, WR

The Patriots' starting linebacker corps is loaded after Jerod Mayo decided to restructure his deal and return to the team after the second of his two injury-shortened seasons. With Mayo, Jamie Collins and Dont'a Hightower, the Patriots have one of the finest starting trios in the NFL. Hightower was tremendous after Mayo went down after six games, and the athletic Collins continues to improve all aspects of his game and appears on his way to a Pro Bowl very soon.

SPECIALISTS The Patriots are in very good shape in all aspects of their special teams. Stephen Gostkowski has been incredibly accurate the past two seasons, connecting on 73-of-78 field goals (including 6-of-7 from beyond 50). Edelman is the NFL's active leader in punt return average at 12.3 yards per return, and Amendola proved to be a serviceable kickoff return man when he took over halfway through last season (24.9-yard average). The Patriots were 11th in net punting with left-footed Ryan Allen at the controls.

FINAL ANALYSIS On paper, the Patriots do not appear to be as good as last season's Super Bowl champions, but no AFC team can safely be called an overwhelming favorite. Brady has shown no signs of slowing down, and his top receiving targets will all be back except for Vereen. Expect the offense, with a healthy Gronkowski, to continue to produce at a high level. The question is whether the defense can be championship-quality. After ranking 25th or worse in total defense every year from 2010-13, the Patriots improved to 13th last season with the addition of Revis. Will they regress without him, or will a strong linebacking corps continue the improvement? It will be Belichick's challenge to try to win without a shutdown corner. The goal for the Patriots should be to secure a first-round bye for the sixth straight year and be in the mix for a return trip to the Super Bowl.

PATRIOTS IN THE DRAFT

B+

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Malcom Brown	DT	6-2	320	Texas
2.	Jordan Richards	SS	5-11	210	Stanford
3.	Geneo Grissom	DE	6-3	252	Oklahoma
4.	Trey Flowers	DE	6-2	266	Arkansas
4.	Tre' Jackson	G	6-4	330	Florida State
4.	Shaq Mason	C	6-1	300	Georgia Tech
5.	Joe Cardona	LS	6-2	236	Navy
6.	Matthew Wells	LB	6-2	215	Mississippi State
6.	A.J. Derby	TE	6-4	255	Arkansas
7.	Darryl Roberts	CB	6-0	182	Marshall
7.	Xzavier Dickson	LB	6-3	266	Alabama

The Patriots combined value and need with Malcom Brown. The versatile defensive tackle was projected to be a mid-first-round selection, but he was still on the board at No. 32. Jordan Richards was viewed as a bit of a reach in the second round at a safety position where the Patriots have two starters returning. Overall, the Patriots went heavy on the line of scrimmage, with five of their first six picks on either the offensive or defensive line. Cornerback was surprisingly not addressed until the seventh round, and there were no wide receivers selected, two positions that lack depth. The Patriots filled their long-snapper hole with fifth-rounder Joe Cardona, but he may have an obligation to serve in the Navy.

Edelman: Tom DiPace; Brown: Chris Covatta

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
12	Brady, Tom	QB	6-4	225	15	Michigan	D6b-00	D6b-NE-00
10	Garoppolo, Jimmy	QB	6-2	225	1	Eastern Illinois	D2-14	D2-NE-14
8	Gilbert, Garrett	QB	6-4	221	1	SMU	FA-14	D6-StL-14
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
29	Blount, LeGarrette	RB	6-0	250	5	Oregon	FA-14	FA-Ten-10
38	Bolden, Brandon	RB	5-11	220	3	Ole Miss	FA-12	FA-NE-12
39	Cadet, Travaris	RB	6-1	210	3	Appalachian State	FA-NO-15	FA-NO-12
46	Develin, James	FB	6-3	255	2	Brown	FA-12	FA-Cin-10
31	Gaffney, Tyler	RB	6-0	220	1	Stanford	W-Car-14	D6-Car-14
35	Gray, Jonas	RB	5-10	230	1	Notre Dame	FA-14	FA-Mia-12
28	White, James	RB	5-10	205	1	Wisconsin	D4b-14	D4b-NE-14
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
80	Amendola, Danny	WR	5-11	195	6	Texas Tech	FA-StL-13	FA-Dal-08
82	Boyce, Josh	WR	5-11	205	2	TCU	D4-13	D4-NE-13
88	Chandler, Scott	TE	6-7	260	8	Iowa	FA-Buf-15	D4-SD-07
	Davis, Fred	TE	6-4	247	6	USC	FA-15	D2b-Was-08
17	Dobson, Aaron	WR	6-3	200	2	Marshall	D2b-13	D2b-NE-13
14	Dorsey, Kevin	WR	6-1	207	2	Maryland	FA-GB-15	D7b-GB-13
11	Edelman, Julian	WR	5-10	200	6	Kent State	D7a-09	D7a-NE-09
13	Gibson, Brandon	WR	6-0	210	6	Washington State	FA-Mia-15	D6-Phi-09
87	Gronkowski, Rob	TE	6-6	265	5	Arizona	D2a-10	D2a-NE-10
47	Hoomanawanui, Michael	TE	6-4	260	5	Illinois	FA-12	D5-StL-10
16	Krause, Jonathan	WR	5-11	190	1	Vanderbilt	FA-14	FA-Cle-14
19	LaFell, Brandon	WR	6-3	210	5	LSU	FA-Car-14	D3a-Car-10
18	Slater, Matthew	WR	6-0	210	7	UCLA	D5-08	D5-NE-08
84	Tyms, Brian	WR	6-3	204	2	Florida A&M	FA-14	FA-SF-12
81	Wright, Tim	TE	6-4	235	2	Rutgers	T-TB-14	FA-TB-13
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
64	Barker, Chris	OL	6-2	310	2	Nevada	W-Mia-13	FA-Mia-13
61	Cannon, Marcus	OL	6-5	335	4	TCU	D5a-11	D5a-NE-11
65	Devey, Jordan	T	6-6	317	1	Memphis	FA-13	FA-Bal-13
71	Fleming, Cameron	OL	6-6	325	1	Stanford	D4c-14	D4c-NE-14
68	Hauptmann, Caylin	OL	6-3	300	2	FIU	FA-14	FA-Cle-13
67	Kline, Josh	OL	6-3	295	2	Kent State	FA-13	FA-NE-13
77	Solder, Nate	T	6-8	320	4	Colorado	D1-11	D1-NE-11
66	Stork, Bryan	C	6-4	310	1	Florida State	D4a-14	D4a-NE-14
76	Vollmer, Sebastian	T	6-8	320	6	Houston	D2d-09	D2d-NE-09
62	Wendell, Ryan	G	6-2	300	6	Fresno State	FA-08	FA-NE-08
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
92	Bequette, Jake	DE	6-5	265	3	Arkansas	D3-12	D3-NE-12
97	Branch, Alan	DL	6-6	325	8	Michigan	FA-14	D2-Ari-07
99	Buchanan, Michael	DL	6-12	255	2	Illinois	D7a-13	D7a-NE-13
74	Easley, Dominique	DL	6-2	290	1	Florida	D1-14	D1-NE-14
95	Jones, Chandler	DE	6-5	265	3	Syracuse	D1a-12	D1a-NE-12
94	Jones, Chris	DT	6-1	309	2	Bowling Green	W-TB-13	D6-Hou-13
90	Moore, Zach	DL	6-6	275	1	Concordia-St. Paul	D6b-14	D6b-NE-14
50	Ninkovich, Rob	DE	6-2	260	9	Purdue	FA-09	D5-NO-06
93	Sheard, Jabaal	DE	6-3	264	4	Pittsburgh	FA-Cle-15	D2a-Cle-11
96	Siliga, Sealver	DT	6-2	325	3	Utah	FA-13	FA-SF-11
72	Vellano, Joe	DL	6-2	300	2	Maryland	FA-13	FA-NE-13
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
91	Collins, Jamie	LB	6-3	250	2	Southern Miss	D2a-13	D2a-NE-13
58	Fleming, Darius	LB	6-2	255	3	Notre Dame	FA-14	D5-SF-12
52	Freeny, Jonathan	LB	6-2	254	3	Rutgers	FA-Mia-15	FA-Mia-11
45	Gordon, Cameron	LB	6-3	240	1	Michigan	FA-14	FA-NE-14
54	Hightower, Dont'a	LB	6-3	270	3	Alabama	D1b-12	D1b-NE-12
53	Martin, Eric	LB	6-2	250	3	Nebraska	FA-14	FA-NO-13
51	Mayo, Jerod	LB	6-1	250	7	Tennessee	D1-08	D1-NE-08
49	Morris, James	LB	6-2	240	1	Iowa	FA-14	FA-NE-14
94	White, Chris	LB	6-3	238	4	Mississippi State	W-Det-13	D6-Buf-11
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
21	Butler, Malcolm	CB	5-11	190	1	West Alabama	FA-14	FA-NE-14
34	Chekwa, Chimdi	CB	6-0	190	3	Ohio State	FA-Oak-15	D4a-Oak-11
23	Chung, Patrick	S	5-11	210	6	Oregon	FA-Phi-13	D2a-NE-09
43	Ebner, Nate	DB	6-0	210	3	Ohio State	D6-12	D6-NE-12
24	Fletcher, Bradley	CB	6-0	200	6	Iowa	FA-Phi-15	D3-StL-09
31	Green, Justin	DB	5-11	195	2	Illinois	FA-14	FA-NE-13
30	Harmon, Duron	DB	6-1	205	2	Rutgers	D3b-13	D3b-NE-13
27	McClain, Robert	CB	5-9	195	5	Connecticut	FA-Atl-15	D7-Car-10
32	McCourty, Devin	DB	5-10	195	5	Rutgers	D1-10	D1-NE-10
26	Ryan, Logan	CB	5-11	195	2	Rutgers	D3a-13	D3a-NE-13
41	Swanson, Daxton	DB	5-11	191	1	Sam Houston State	FA-14	FA-Ind-13
27	Wilson, Tavon	DB	6-0	215	3	Illinois	D2-12	D2-NE-12
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
48	Aiken, Danny	LS	6-4	255	4	Virginia	W-Buf-11	FA-Buf-11
6	Allen, Ryan	P	6-2	215	2	Louisiana Tech	FA-13	FA-NE-13
3	Gostkowski, Stephen	K	6-1	215	9	Memphis	D4b-06	D4b-NE-06

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	19	Brandon LaFell
	80	Danny Amendola
WR	11	Julian Edelman
	13	Brandon Gibson
LT	77	Nate Solder
	61	Marcus Cannon
LG		Tre' Jackson (R)
	67	Josh Kline
C	66	Bryan Stork
		Shaq Mason (R)
RG	62	Ryan Wendell
	67	Josh Kline
RT	76	Sebastian Vollmer
	71	Cameron Fleming
TE	87	Rob Gronkowski
	81	Tim Wright
TE	88	Scott Chandler
	47	Michael Hoomanawanui
QB	12	Tom Brady
	10	Jimmy Garoppolo
RB	29	LeGarrette Blount
	28	James White

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	50	Rob Ninkovich
	93	Jabaal Sheard
DT		Malcolm Brown (R)
	97	Alan Branch
DT	74	Dominique Easley
	96	Sealver Siliga
DE	95	Chandler Jones
	90	Zach Moore
WLB	54	Dont'a Hightower
	45	Cameron Gordon
ILB	51	Jerod Mayo
	94	Chris White
SLB	91	Jamie Collins
	58	Darius Fleming
CB	21	Malcolm Butler
		Robert McClain
CB	26	Logan Ryan
		Bradley Fletcher
SS	32	Devin McCourty
		Jordan Richards (R)
FS	23	Patrick Chung
	30	Duron Harmon

SPECIALISTS

K	3	Stephen Gostkowski	KR	80	Danny Amendola
P	6	Ryan Allen	PR	11	Julian Edelman

SCOUTING THE PATRIOTS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP NEW ENGLAND "Julian Edelman and Brandon LaFell complement each other well and became reliable targets in conjunction with Rob Gronkowski. It remains to be seen if Aaron Dobson can become a player, but with their offensive line in need of interior help, they added Tre' Jackson and Shaq Mason in the fourth round of the draft. ... The Pats face three formidable fronts within the division as all of their opponents want to attack the base of the pocket and make Tom Brady move off his spot. ... LeGarrette Blount will miss the opener, and they let Shane Vereen depart in free agency, but Travaris Cadet was signed from the Saints, and there is great hope for James White to become a factor in 2015. ... They have gotten amazing mileage out of their linebacker corps in the absence of Jerod Mayo over the past two years. Jamie Collins is the most versatile piece of their defensive strategy and has become a top player at his position. Dont'a Hightower is finally playing to his potential and reminds you of a 1980s New York Giants linebacker. ... Rob Ninkovich has thrived because of his motor, technique and scheme fit. ... They did not exercise the Derrelle Revis option, Brandon Browner signed with the Saints, and they didn't address the position during the offseason."

2015 SCHEDULE

Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	2014 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 10	Pittsburgh (Thu.)	8:30	11-5	411.1 (2)	353.4 (18)	27.3 (7)	23.0 (18)
2	Sept. 20	at Buffalo	1:00	9-7	318.5 (26)	312.2 (4)	21.4 (18)	18.1 (4)
3	Sept. 27	Jacksonville	1:00	3-13	289.6 (31)	370.8 (26)	15.6 (32)	25.8 (26)
4		BYE						
5	Oct. 11	at Dallas	4:25	12-4	383.6 (7)	355.1 (19)	29.2 (5)	22.0 (15)
6	Oct. 18	at Indianapolis	8:30	11-5	406.6 (3)	342.7 (11)	28.6 (6)	23.1 (19)
7	Oct. 25	N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	326.6 (22)	327.2 (6)	17.7 (28)	25.1 (24)
8	Oct. 29	Miami (Thu.)	8:25	8-8	350.1 (14)	343.4 (12)	24.3 (11)	23.3 (20)
9	Nov. 8	Washington	1:00	4-12	358.6 (13)	357.0 (20)	18.8 (26)	27.4 (29)
10	Nov. 15	at N.Y. Giants	4:25	6-10	367.2 (10)	375.8 (29)	23.8 (13)	25.0 (22)
11	Nov. 23	Buffalo (Mon.)	8:30	9-7	318.5 (26)	312.2 (4)	21.4 (18)	18.1 (4)
12	Nov. 29	at Denver	8:30	12-4	402.9 (4)	305.2 (3)	30.1 (2)	22.1 (16)
13	Dec. 6	Philadelphia	4:25	10-6	396.8 (5)	375.6 (28)	29.6 (3)	25.0 (22)
14	Dec. 13	at Houston	1:00	9-7	344.6 (17)	348.2 (16)	23.3 (14)	19.2 (7)
15	Dec. 20	Tennessee	1:00	2-14	303.7 (29)	373.0 (27)	15.9 (30)	27.4 (30)
16	Dec. 27	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	326.6 (22)	327.2 (6)	17.7 (28)	25.1 (24)
17	Jan. 3	at Miami	1:00	8-8	350.1 (14)	343.4 (12)	24.3 (11)	23.3 (20)

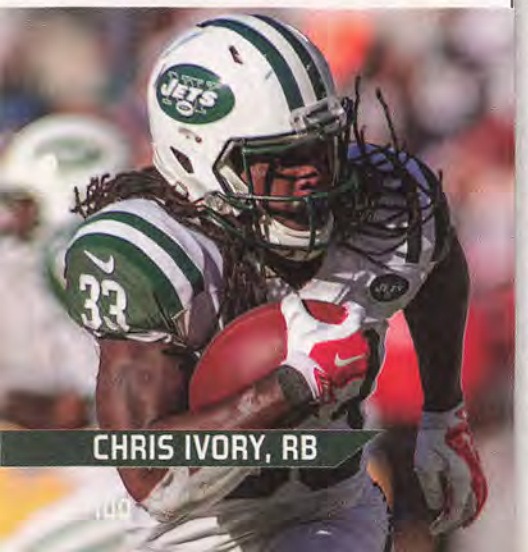
NEW YORK JETS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Todd Bowles
RECORD WITH TEAM: 0–0
CAREER RECORD: 2–1
ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/INSIDE LINEBACKERS: Mike Caldwell
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Chan Gailey
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Kacy Rodgers
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Bobby April
QUARTERBACKS: Kevin Patullo
RUNNING BACKS: Marcel Shipp
WIDE RECEIVERS: Karl Dorrell
TIGHT ENDS: Jimmie Johnson
OFFENSIVE LINE: Steve Marshall
DEFENSIVE LINE: Pepper Johnson
OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS: Mark Collins
DEFENSIVE BACKS: Joe Danna

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs



CHRIS IVORY, RB

4 AFC EAST FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN/CEO: Woody Johnson
PRESIDENT: Neil Glat
GENERAL MANAGER: Mike Maccagnan
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION: Rod Graves
STADIUM: MetLife Stadium (82,566)
SURFACE: UBU Sports' Speed Series S5-M
WEBSITE: www.newyorkjets.com
TICKETS: 800-469-5387
TRAINING CAMP: SUNY at Cortland (Cortland, N.Y.)

With a new general manager and new head coach, will the Jets look like a new team in 2015?

While it's not as simple as overhauling the front office, coaching staff and secondary, the Jets this offseason made plenty of moves in the right direction as they try to put last season's 4–12 misery behind them. New GM Mike Maccagnan was aggressive in free agency, as he upgraded the Jets' beleaguered defensive backfield. So far, new head coach Todd Bowles has brought a more businesslike approach to the organization than his predecessor, Rex Ryan.

The Jets did some great things under Ryan. They made the AFC Championship Game in each of his first two seasons, 2009 and 2010. But they haven't made the playoffs since, and they are 26–38 during this four-year slide, with zero winning records.

But there's still a nagging question surrounding this team: For as promising as the Jets' new secondary looks, their quarterback situation is still a giant question mark. Can they overcome that and be a legitimate factor in 2015?

OFFENSE The Jets should be able to run the ball. That hasn't been an issue in recent seasons. Power running back Chris Ivory is still around. He has rushed for 833 and 821 yards, respectively, in his two seasons with the team. And the Jets added Stevan Ridley in free agency, though you have to wonder if he can return to his old form after last season's torn ACL and MCL. The Jets still lack a back with breakaway speed.

A bigger issue for this team is the passing game. The past three seasons, the Jets ranked 32nd, 31st and 30th in the NFL in passing offense. Nowhere to go but up, right? In two seasons, quarterback Geno Smith has 41 turnovers, including 34 interceptions. It is time for him to take a step forward with his decision-making in 2015.

The Jets traded for Ryan Fitzpatrick in the offseason, and he will compete for the starting job with Smith. Fitzpatrick is competent enough, but if he beats out Smith in training camp — or replaces him during the season — the Jets will be in the market for a quarterback after this season, as they will almost certainly dump Smith.

Trading for Brandon Marshall this offseason gives the Jets a big-bodied wide receiver who can be a red-zone threat, even if he isn't as effective overall as he was earlier in his career. Marshall had a streak of seven straight seasons with at least 1,000 yards receiving snapped last fall. The Jets have been pitiful in the red zone recently, ranking 32nd, 27th and 25th in the NFL the past three seasons in red-zone efficiency.

The Jets' second-round draft pick, Ohio State's Devin Smith, is a deep-threat receiver, and maybe nothing more. But he could help stretch the field and force defenses to play more honest coverage against Marshall and Eric Decker.

DEFENSE The secondary was, by far, the Jets' biggest defensive shortcoming last season. Maccagnan went out and signed two new cornerbacks — familiar faces Darrelle Revis and Antonio Cromartie — and acquired a free safety, Marcus Gilchrist. The latter should allow second-year pro Calvin Pryor (last year's first-round pick) to play closer to the line of scrimmage as a strong safety, where he is most comfortable. Maccagnan also signed corner Buster Skrine in free agency.

Between the revamped secondary and the already strong defensive line, the Jets have a chance to be one of the NFL's top defenses. Sheldon Richardson and Muhammad Wilkerson are two of the league's best young defensive linemen. Then the Jets saw USC defensive lineman Leonard Williams (maybe the best overall player in the draft) fall into their lap with the No. 6 pick, which creates an issue for Bowles: How does he deploy all these linemen? It's a good problem to have.

A bigger issue for the Jets comes at the edge rusher/outside linebacker spot in their 3-4 defense. Strong-side linebacker Calvin Pace turns 35 in October. Backup rush linebacker Jason Babin, a pass-rushing specialist, is already 35. The Jets would love for Quinton Coples, their 2012 first-round pick, to develop as a rush linebacker. But he has disappointed so far in his career. He has 16.5 sacks in three seasons, with a high of 6.5 last fall.

The Jets' defense wasn't terrible last season under Ryan. The unit finished sixth in the league in yards allowed but was 24th in points allowed and 26th in red-zone defense. Having a better secondary — and a dominant corner like Revis — should help improve those latter two stats.

Richardson: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports; Ivory: Peter Brouillet; Cheerleader: AP

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

GETTING AROUND TOWN Defensive lineman Leonard Williams, the Jets' first-round draft pick (No. 6 overall selection), doesn't have a driver's license. During his college days at USC, he lived close to campus and got around by riding his long-board skateboard. He knows that won't work with the Jets, whose training facility is in suburban New Jersey. "I'm definitely going to get a car now," he says.

OVERCOMING THE ODDS The Jets picked outside linebacker Lorenzo Mauldin of Louisville in the third round. He has an inspirational story. His parents were in and out of jail, so he entered foster care at age 2. He spent time in 16 different foster homes during his youth. After the Jets drafted Mauldin, he broke down in tears during a conference call with reporters. "This is my chance to show everybody that I can do what I do, and I'm going to do it beyond what I can do," he said. Mauldin had also gotten emotional upon receiving his college diploma. "It makes me feel really good," Mauldin told ESPN about his graduation. "If there were other words that I could say, I would say them. I'm glad I can put smiles on people's faces. I'm glad that I can make people's days. I'm just blessed."

ALL IN THE FAMILY Last season, the Jets' rookie tight end, Jace Amaro out of Texas Tech, had some assistance as he transitioned to life in the NFL. His older sister, Manae, lived with him and was actually employed by him, as his public relations representative. Amaro's father is a CPA, so he advised Amaro to form his own LLC when he turned pro. Amaro pays his sister through that LLC, Jace Amaro Enterprises.

CHARITY TRAVELER Tight end Zach Sudfeld has traveled to Africa, Thailand and Romania to work with his family's charity organization, Assist International, which does humanitarian aid work. It was founded by Sudfeld's grandfather, a minister.

BEAR DOWN Every spring, linebacker Jason Babin heads up to Alaska and goes black bear hunting. Last year, he took his 9-year-old son, who shot his first bear. Babin says his son even skinned the bear, with a little help.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS Nose tackle Damon Harrison used to work at Walmart, as a night stocker, between leaving junior college and enrolling at NAIA school William Penn. Now, he frequently visits the Walmart near the Jets' complex. The workers at that Walmart know him well, and they often come up to say hello. During a visit last fall, Harrison says, "I was showing them: I used to work over here. I started off in cosmetics."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
OG	James Carpenter	Seattle
CB	Antonio Cromartie	Arizona
QB	Ryan Fitzpatrick	Houston
S	Marcus Gilchrist	San Diego
WR	Brandon Marshall	Chicago
CB	Darrelle Revis	New England
RB	Stevan Ridley	New England
CB	Buster Skrine	Cleveland

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
NT	Kenrick Ellis	N.Y. Giants

SHELDON RICHARDSON, DE

2014 RESULTS (4-12)

Sept. 7	Oakland	W	19-14
Sept. 14	at Green Bay	L	24-31
Sept. 22	Chicago	L	19-27
Sept. 28	Detroit	L	17-24
Oct. 5	at San Diego	L	0-31
Oct. 12	Denver	L	17-31
Oct. 16	at New England	L	25-27
Oct. 26	Buffalo	L	23-43
Nov. 2	at Kansas City	L	10-24
Nov. 9	Pittsburgh	W	20-13
Nov. 24	at Buffalo	L	3-38
Dec. 1	Miami	L	13-16
Dec. 7	at Minnesota (ot)	L	24-30
Dec. 14	at Tennessee	W	16-11
Dec. 21	New England	L	16-17
Dec. 28	at Miami	W	37-24

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Geno Smith	367	219	2,525	13	13
Michael Vick	121	64	604	3	2
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Chris Ivory	198	821	4.1	6	
Chris Johnson	155	663	4.3	1	
Geno Smith	59	238	4.0	1	
Bilal Powell	33	141	4.3	1	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Eric Decker	74	962	13.0	5	
Jeremy Kerley	38	409	10.8	1	
Jace Amaro	38	345	9.1	2	
Percy Harvin	29	350	12.1	1	

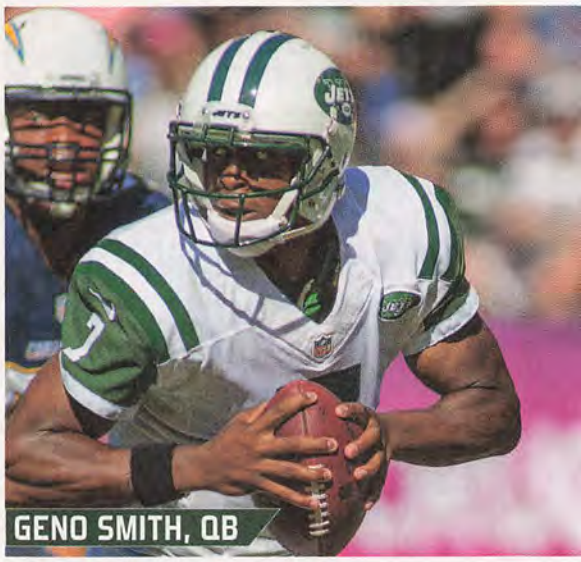
KICKING: Nick Folk, 32-39 FGs, 23-23 PATs, 119 points
TACKLES: David Harris, 124; Demario Davis, 116
SACKS: Sheldon Richardson, 8.0; Quinton Coples, 6.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Jaiquawn Jarrett, 2; Darrin Walls, 2

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	326.6	22	10
Rushing	142.5	3	1
Passing	184.1	32	16
Scoring	17.7	28	13
Third Down %	38.9	20	10
Punt Returns	6.3	30	15
Kick Returns	23.1	19	10
TEAM DEFENSE	**Stat**	**NFL Rank**	**AFC Rank**
Total	327.2	6	3
Rushing	93.1	5	3
Passing	234.1	14	8
Scoring	25.1	24	13
Interceptions	6	T30	T14
Sacks	45	T6	T4
Turnover Differential	-11	29	15

SPECIALISTS Nick Folk is back as the Jets' kicker and Ryan Quigley returns as the punter. This will be Folk's sixth year with the Jets, and Quigley's third season. Folk wasn't as good last season (32-of-39 on field goals) as he was in 2013 (33-of-36), though three of his misses last season came on kicks of 50 yards or longer. Quigley last season ranked 14th in the NFL (45.9-yard average), after ranking 17th in 2013 (45.5).

Worth noting: The Jets this season will have a different special teams coach for the fourth straight year, as longtime special teams coach Bobby April arrives, following Thomas McGaughey, Ben Kotwica and Mike Westhoff, a special teams coaching pioneer. Receiver Jeremy Kerley seems likely to return punts again, though the Jets have options there, just as they do at the kickoff return spot. It will be interesting to see if they give Smith, their blazing-fast rookie receiver, a shot on kickoff returns. He dabbled in them during his time at Ohio State.


GENO SMITH, QB

FINAL ANALYSIS You can't win in today's NFL unless you have at least competent quarterback play. And there have been plenty of times over the past two seasons when Smith has looked totally incompetent under center. In fact, it's been a long time since the organization has enjoyed steady, reliable play at the most important position on the field.

So that's what it boils down to for these Jets: Unless Smith takes a step forward in 2015, or Fitzpatrick performs well as his replacement, it's hard to envision this team being anything better than average.

Yes, the defense has a chance to be elite, with stars such as Revis and Wilkerson and Richardson. Yes, the Jets should be able to run the ball well, presuming their aging — but still not yet crumbling — offensive line holds up. But without a better passing game, the Jets will probably hover around 7–9 to 9–7. The latter wouldn't be all that bad for a team coming off 4–12 with a rookie head coach. Either way, look for the Jets to be in the hunt for a playoff spot entering December. This team isn't going to start 1–8 like last year's group did.

Keep an eye on the final three games, though — at Dallas, home against New England and at Buffalo. With a playoff spot potentially on the line, those challenges could prove too daunting for a team in transition.

JETS IN THE DRAFT

A

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Leonard Williams	DL	6-4	302	USC
2.	Devin Smith	WR	6-0	196	Ohio State
3.	Lorenzo Mauldin	OLB	6-34	259	Louisville
4.	Bryce Petty	QB	6-3	230	Baylor
5.	Jarvis Harrison	OG	6-4	330	Texas A&M
7.	Deon Simon	NT	6-4	321	Northwestern St.

Because of how well the Jets addressed their needs in free agency, none of their draft picks will be forced to start in 2015. Leonard Williams could be a factor, though. The Jets were fortunate that Williams fell to them at the No. 6 pick, since he could wind up being an elite player, but he should be allowed some time to develop. Ditto for Devin Smith, who could be the deep threat the Jets need to make room for Eric Decker. Smith averaged an amazing 28.2 yards per reception as a senior for the national champion Buckeyes, and 12 of his 33 catches went for touchdowns. Lorenzo Mauldin provides youth at a position that needs it. Bryce Petty, a spread offense quarterback in college, is a project who will have to prove he can operate in a pro-style attack. Don't expect him to contribute in any meaningful way in 2015. Jarvis Harrison started 38 career games at three different positions on the line for Texas A&M, most of them at left guard. Deon Simon has power and potential as a run-stuffing nose tackle.

Peter Brouillet

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
14	Fitzpatrick, Ryan	QB	6-2	223	10	Harvard	T-Hou-15	D7-StL-05
5	Simms, Matt	QB	6-3	210	2	Tennessee	FA-12	FA-NYJ-12
7	Smith, Geno	QB	6-3	221	2	West Virginia	D2-13	D2-NYJ-13
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
40	Bohanon, Tommy	FB	6-1	247	2	Wake Forest	D7-13	D7-NYJ-13
33	Ivory, Chris	RB	6-0	222	5	Tiffin	T-NO-13	FA-NO-10
29	Powell, Bilal	RB	5-10	204	4	Louisville	D4-11	D4-NYJ-11
35	Richardson, Daryl	RB	5-10	196	3	Abilene Christian	W-StL-14	D7-StL-12
22	Ridley, Stevan	RB	5-11	220	4	LSU	FA-NE-15	D3a-NE-11
	Stacy, Zac	RB	5-9	224	2	Vanderbilt	T-StL-15	D5b-StL-13
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
88	Amaro, Jace	TE	6-5	265	1	Texas Tech	D2-14	D2-NYJ-14
85	Cumberland, Jeff	TE	6-4	260	5	Illinois	FA-10	FA-NYJ-10
47	Davis, Kellen	TE	6-7	265	7	Michigan State	FA-Det-15	D5-Chi-08
87	Decker, Eric	WR	6-3	214	5	Minnesota	FA-Den-14	D3b-Den-10
82	Enunwa, Quincy	WR	6-2	225	1	Nebraska	D6b-14	D6b-NYJ-14
81	Evans, Shaquelle	WR	6-1	213	1	UCLA	D4b-14	D4b-NYJ-14
10	Graham, T.J.	WR	5-11	188	4	NC State	FA-14	D3-Buf-12
15	Hakim, Saalim	WR	5-11	188	2	Palomar	FA-13	FA-Dal-12
11	Kerley, Jeremy	WR	5-9	188	4	TCU	D5-11	D5-NYJ-11
15	Marshall, Brandon	WR	6-4	230	9	UCF	T-Chi-15	D4-Den-06
16	Owusu, Chris	WR	6-2	200	3	Stanford	FA-14	FA-SF-12
83	Pantale, Chris	TE	6-5	254	1	Boston College	FA-13	FA-NYJ-13
	Posey, DeVier	WR	6-1	210	3	Ohio State	T-Hou-15	D3a-Hou-12
18	Powell, Walt	WR	6-0	189	1	Murray State	W-Ari-14	D6-Ari-14
44	Sudfeld, Zach	TE	6-7	260	2	Nevada	W-NE-13	FA-NE-13
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
75	Aboushi, Oday	OL	6-5	308	2	Virginia	D5-13	D5-NYJ-13
69	Brewer, James	T	6-6	330	4	Indiana	FA-NYG-15	D4-NYG-11
77	Carpenter, James	G	6-5	321	4	Alabama	FA-Sea-15	D1-Sea-11
66	Colon, Willie	G	6-3	315	9	Hofstra	FA-13	D4a-Pit-06
70	Dozier, Dakota	OL	6-4	313	1	Furman	D4c-14	D4c-NYJ-14
60	Ferguson, D'Brickashaw	T	6-6	310	9	Virginia	D1a-06	D1a-NYJ-06
63	Freeman, Dalton	C	6-5	291	1	Clemson	FA-13	FA-NYJ-13
68	Giacomini, Breno	OL	6-7	318	7	Louisville	FA-Sea-14	D5-GB-08
65	Hilliard, Corey	T	6-6	300	6	Oklahoma State	FA-Det-15	D6-NE-07
71	Ijalana, Ben	T	6-4	322	4	Villanova	W-Ind-13	D2-Ind-11
72	Johnson, Wesley	OL	6-5	297	1	Vanderbilt	W-Pit-14	D5-Pit-14
74	Mangold, Nick	C	6-4	307	9	Ohio State	D1b-06	D1b-NYJ-06
79	Qvale, Brent	T	6-7	315	1	Nebraska	FA-14	FA-NYJ-14
67	Winters, Brian	G	6-4	320	2	Kent State	D3-13	D3-NYJ-13
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
99	Barnes, T.J.	NT	6-7	364	1	Georgia Tech	FA-13	FA-Jac-13
72	Bowen, Stephen	DE	6-5	300	9	Hofstra	FA-Was-15	FA-Dal-06
78	Douzable, Leger	DL	6-4	284	7	UCF	FA-13	FA-Min-08
94	Harrison, Damon	DL	6-4	350	3	William Penn	FA-12	FA-NYJ-12
91	Richardson, Sheldon	DL	6-3	294	2	Missouri	D1b-13	D1b-NYJ-13
92	Vickerson, Kevin	DT	6-5	328	7	Michigan State	FA-KC-15	D7-Mia-05
96	Wilkerson, Muhammad	DL	6-4	315	4	Temple	D1-11	D1-NYJ-11
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
58	Babin, Jason	LB	6-3	267	11	Western Michigan	FA-14	D1-Hou-04
98	Coples, Quinton	LB	6-6	290	3	North Carolina	D1-12	D1-NYJ-12
56	Davis, Demario	LB	6-2	239	3	Arkansas State	D3-12	D3-NYJ-12
51	Enemkpali, Ikemefuna	LB	6-1	261	1	Louisiana Tech	D6c-14	D6c-NYJ-14
52	Harris, David	LB	6-2	250	8	Michigan	D2-07	D2-NYJ-07
50	Harvey, Mario	LB	6-0	264	3	Marshall	FA-14	FA-Pit-11
58	Henderson, Erin	LB	6-3	244	6	Maryland	FA-15	FA-Min-08
54	Lattimore, Jamari	LB	6-2	229	4	Middle Tennessee	FA-GB-15	FA-GB-11
53	Mays, Joe	LB	5-11	244	7	North Dakota State	FA-KC-15	D6-Phi-08
97	Pace, Calvin	LB	6-4	265	12	Wake Forest	FA-Ari-08	D1-Ari-03
57	Reilly, Trevor	LB	6-5	245	1	Utah	D7-14	D7-NYJ-14
95	Talley, Ronald	DE	6-3	282	3	Delaware	FA-15	FA-GB-09
55	Young, Chris	LB	6-0	252	1	Arizona State	FA-14	FA-Hou-14
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
39	Allen, Antonio	S	6-1	210	3	South Carolina	D7a-12	D7a-NYJ-12
36	Brown, Curtis	CB	6-0	185	2	Texas	FA-15	D3-Pit-11
31	Cromartie, Antonio	CB	6-2	210	9	Florida State	FA-Ari-15	D1-SD-06
21	Gilchrist, Marcus	S	5-10	198	4	Clemson	FA-SD-15	D2a-SD-11
37	Jarrett, Jaiquawn	S	6-0	196	3	Temple	FA-12	D2-Phi-11
34	Lewis, Keith	CB	6-1	190	1	Virginia-Lynchburg	FA-14	FA-TB-14
43	McDougle, Dexter	CB	5-10	195	1	Maryland	D3-14	D3-NYJ-14
45	Miles, Rontez	S	6-0	203	1	California (PA)	FA-13	FA-NYJ-13
27	Milliner, Dee	CB	6-0	201	2	Alabama	D1a-13	D1a-NYJ-13
31	Phillips, Dashaun	CB	5-11	182	1	Tarleton State	FA-14	FA-Dal-14
25	Pryor, Calvin	S	5-11	207	1	Louisville	D1-14	D1-NYJ-14
24	Revis, Darrelle	CB	5-11	198	8	Pittsburgh	FA-NE-15	D1-NYJ-07
41	Skrine, Buster	DB	5-9	185	4	Chattanooga	FA-Cle-15	D5a-Cle-11
30	Walls, Darrin	CB	6-0	190	4	Notre Dame	FA-12	FA-Atl-11
22	Williams, Marcus	CB	5-11	196	1	North Dakota State	FA-14	FA-Hou-14
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
2	Folk, Nick	K	6-1	222	8	Arizona	FA-10	D6-Dal-07
8	Furney, Andrew	K	5-10	210	1	Washington State	FA-14	FA-NYJ-14
46	Purdum, Tanner	LS	6-3	270	5	Baker	FA-10	FA-KC-09
4	Quigley, Ryan	P	6-3	188	2	Boston College	FA-13	FA-Chi-12
6	Schum, Jacob	P	5-11	211	1	Buffalo	FA-14	FA-Cle-13

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	15	Brandon Marshall
		Devin Smith (R)
WR	87	Eric Decker
	10	T.J. Graham
WR	11	Jeremy Kerley
	16	Chris Owusu
LT	60	D'Brickashaw Ferguson
	71	Ben Ijalana
LG	77	James Carpenter
	75	Oday Aboushi
C	74	Nick Mangold
	63	Dalton Freeman
RG	66	Willie Colon
	67	Brian Winters
RT	68	Breno Giacomini
	65	Corey Hilliard
TE	85	Jeff Cumberland
	88	Jace Amaro
QB	7	Geno Smith
	14	Ryan Fitzpatrick
RB	33	Chris Ivory
	22	Stevan Ridley

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	96	Muhammad Wilkerson
		Leonard Williams (R)
NT	94	Damon Harrison
	92	Kevin Vickerson
DT	91	Sheldon Richardson
	78	Leger Douzable
OLB	98	Quinton Coples
	93	Jason Babin
ILB	56	Demario Davis
	53	Joe Mays
ILB	52	David Harris
	54	Jamari Lattimore
OLB	97	Calvin Pace
	57	Trevor Reilly
CB	24	Darrelle Revis
	27	Dee Milliner
CB	31	Antonio Cromartie
	41	Buster Skrine
SS	25	Calvin Pryor
	39	Antonio Allen
FS	21	Marcus Gilchrist
	37	Jaiquawn Jarrett

SPECIALISTS

K	2	Nick Folk
P	4	Ryan Quigley
KR	10	T.J. Graham
PR	11	Jeremy Kerley

SCOUTING THE JETS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP NEW YORK "Defensively, they brought back the cornerback tandem of Darrelle Revis and Antonio Cromartie, plus signed Buster Skrine from Cleveland and safety Marcus Gilchrist from San Diego. Those moves speak volumes about their faith in former No. 1 pick Dee Milliner as he now sits as the fourth corner. ... The front seven should be very good again with Muhammad Wilkerson, Sheldon Richardson and emerging linebacker Demario Davis as the primary playmakers up front. ... And despite the defensive line being the strongest unit on their team, give GM Mike Maccagnan credit for taking the 'best available' player in USC's Leonard Williams, who fell in their laps at pick No. 6. ... Geno Smith is the biggest unknown on this football team, and the new regime drafted an excellent developmental candidate in Baylor's Bryce Petty. ... They traded for Brandon Marshall, who will play for his fourth team in 10 years. In spite of his career production, it's hard to predict how this chapter will play out. ... The offensive line should be steady with James Carpenter being brought in from Seattle, but D'Brickashaw Ferguson and Nick Mangold have played their best football in the past. ... Everything truly hinges on the QB play and what new offensive coordinator Chan Gailey can create with a bottom-half-of-the-league group of skill players."

2015 SCHEDULE

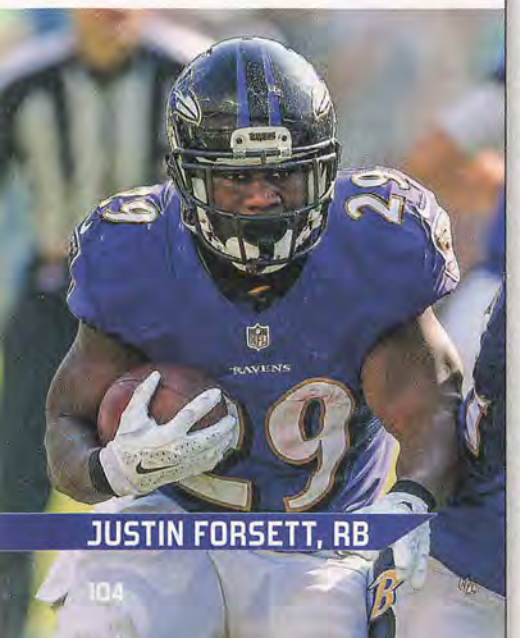
					2014 NFL RANKINGS			
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	Cleveland	1:00	7-9	324.6 (23)	366.1 (23)	18.7 (27)	21.1 (9)
2	Sept. 21	at Indianapolis (Mon.)	8:30	11-5	406.6 (3)	342.7 (11)	28.6 (6)	23.1 (19)
3	Sept. 27	Philadelphia	1:00	10-6	396.8 (5)	375.6 (28)	29.6 (3)	25.0 (22)
4	Oct. 4	vs. Miami (London)	9:30 a.m.	8-8	350.1 (14)	343.4 (12)	24.3 (11)	23.3 (20)
5		BYE						
6	Oct. 18	Washington	1:00	4-12	358.6 (13)	357.0 (20)	18.8 (26)	27.4 (29)
7	Oct. 25	at New England	1:00	12-4	365.5 (11)	344.1 (13)	29.3 (4)	19.6 (8)
8	Nov. 1	at Oakland	4:05	3-13	282.2 (32)	357.6 (21)	15.8 (31)	28.3 (32)
9	Nov. 8	Jacksonville	1:00	3-13	289.6 (31)	370.8 (26)	15.6 (32)	25.8 (26)
10	Nov. 12	Buffalo (Thu.)	8:25	9-7	318.5 (26)	312.2 (4)	21.4 (18)	18.1 (4)
11	Nov. 22	at Houston	1:00	9-7	344.6 (17)	348.2 (16)	23.3 (14)	19.2 (7)
12	Nov. 29	Miami	1:00	8-8	350.1 (14)	343.4 (12)	24.3 (11)	23.3 (20)
13	Dec. 6	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	6-10	367.2 (10)	375.8 (29)	23.8 (13)	25.0 (22)
14	Dec. 13	Tennessee	1:00	2-14	303.7 (29)	373.0 (27)	15.9 (30)	27.4 (30)
15	Dec. 19	at Dallas (Sat.)	8:25	12-4	383.6 (7)	355.1 (19)	29.2 (5)	22.0 (15)
16	Dec. 27	New England	1:00	12-4	365.5 (11)	344.1 (13)	29.3 (4)	19.6 (8)
17	Jan. 3	at Buffalo	1:00	9-7	318.5 (26)	312.2 (4)	21.4 (18)	18.1 (4)

BALTIMORE RAVENS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: John Harbaugh
RECORD WITH TEAM: 72–40
CAREER RECORD: 72–40
ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH/SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Jerry Rosburg
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Marc Trestman
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dean Pees
QUARTERBACKS: Marty Mornhinweg
RUNNING BACKS: Thomas Hammock
WIDE RECEIVERS: Bobby Engram
TIGHT ENDS: Richard Angulo
OFFENSIVE LINE: Juan Castillo
DEFENSIVE LINE: Clarence Brooks
LINEBACKERS: Ted Monachino
INSIDE LINEBACKERS: Don Martindale
DEFENSIVE BACKS: Chris Hewitt
CORNERBACKS: Matt Weiss

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND


JUSTIN FORSETT, RB

3 AFC NORTH FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER: Stephen Bisciotti
PRESIDENT: Richard W. Cass
GENERAL MANAGER/EXECUTIVE VP: Ozzie Newsome
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER: Eric DeCosta
SENIOR VP OF FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION: Pat Moriarty
STADIUM: M&T Bank Stadium (71,008)
SURFACE: Momentum Turf
WEBSITE: www.baltimoreravens.com
TICKETS: 410-261-7283
TRAINING CAMP: Baltimore Ravens Training Facility (Owings Mills, Md.)

When the Baltimore Ravens trudged out of the locker room at Gillette Stadium following a bitter playoff loss to the New England Patriots, feisty veteran wide receiver Steve Smith vowed they'd be back and that the outcome would be different the next time.

Following an offseason defined by change — offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak left to become the Denver Broncos' head coach; defensive tackle Haloti Ngata was traded to the Detroit Lions; and wide receiver Torrey Smith and pass rusher Pernell McPhee departed as free agents — the Ravens are confident that their roster is well stocked to make another serious playoff run.

The Ravens have made the playoffs six of the past seven years under coach John Harbaugh and are upbeat about their prospects following a strong draft that filled several needs. That included drafting UCF wide receiver Breshad Perriman (a bigger, faster version of Torrey Smith) in the first round and tight end Maxx Williams in the second.

Although the Ravens weren't particularly active in free agency due to a tight salary cap situation, general manager Ozzie Newsome cautions that he's not done building the roster.

OFFENSE Although he is never among the first names mentioned in conversations about top NFL quarterbacks, Joe Flacco is a strong-armed, accurate, mobile QB who owns a Super Bowl ring and a $120.6 million contract. Flacco improved significantly under Kubiak a year ago. Now, he'll collaborate with new offensive coordinator Marc Trestman to try to capitalize on his arm strength in more of a vertical passing game. Flacco has a faster deep threat to work with in Perriman than Smith, who was no slouch. Flacco could still stand to improve on his deep-ball accuracy but has matured into a sharp football mind who makes sound decisions and gets the football out of his hands quickly. Matt Schaub is Flacco's new backup.

Justin Forsett has transformed his NFL reputation from undersized journeyman to featured back. Forsett was rewarded with a three-year, $9 million contract. He'll remain the primary back despite the Ravens drafting USC running back Javorius "Buck" Allen, a big back with pass-catching skills. Lorenzo Taliaferro is in the mix as a red-zone presence but has to concentrate on avoiding the fumbles that sent him to the bench as a rookie.

Despite being 36 years old and entering his 15th NFL season, Steve Smith remains fast enough to create separation. He's still physical and combative after the catch, not conceding anything and challenging defensive backs every snap. Smith will be targeted frequently, but Marlon Brown, Michael Campanaro and Kamar Aiken will also be involved.

Williams is expected to have an immediate impact in a passing game that has sorely missed the presence of Dennis Pitta over the past two seasons as he has twice fractured and dislocated his right hip. Pitta's career is in doubt.

The offensive line represents one of the major strengths of the team. Flacco was sacked only 19 times last year, and all five starters are back. Powerful left guard Kelechi Osemele and gritty veteran right guard Marshal Yanda are entering contract years and are competing for one big deal with at least one expected to leave after this season. Center Jeremy Zuttah's size and athleticism represent a major upgrade over Gino Gradkowski, a former starter traded to the Broncos. Left tackle Eugene Monroe is coming off a disappointing season in which he struggled in pass protection and didn't have as much punch as a blocker after undergoing arthroscopic knee surgery. Rick Wagner emerged as one of the NFL's top right tackles, utilizing his strength and sound technique to wall off pass rushers. The top backup is John Urschel, a math whiz from Penn State who can play both guard spots and center in a pinch.

DEFENSE Defensive coordinator Dean Pees' aggressive 3-4 scheme creates a lot of pressure without blitzing with an emphasis on getting outside linebackers Elvis Dumervil and Terrell Suggs isolated in one-on-one blocking situations. Dumervil and Suggs combined for 29 sacks last season as one of the most formidable pass-rushing tandems in the game.

Ngata was a disruptive force who will be replaced by Timmy Jernigan. Jernigan showed flashes of being a capable full-time starter with four sacks as a rookie. He needs to be more consistent, though, and maintain his intensity. Built low to the ground and with the ability to bench press more than 500 pounds, massive lineman Brandon Williams is one of the top nose tackles in the game. Chris Canty is a starter and an experienced leader but will be pushed by young defensive linemen Brent Urban, Carl Davis and Kapron Lewis-Moore. Defensive end Lawrence Guy is an underrated player who has a nose for the football. This

Forsett, Flacco: Tom DiPace; Cheerleader: Mitch Stringer-USA TODAY Sports

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

ACADEMIC STAR As a renowned mathematician and the winner of the William V. Campbell Trophy, also known as "the academic Heisman," Ravens guard John Urschel is growing accustomed to being celebrated for his brain. He became the subject of social media attention when comedian Conan O'Brien wrote on Twitter: "A Baltimore Raven published a complex study in a math journal. The NFL suspended him for unsportsmanlike conduct." Urschel, who replied to Conan's tweet with one of his own featuring a complex mathematical equation, typically spends his offseason days with five hours of training, lifting, running, football drills, kick boxing and mixed martial arts wrestling followed by five hours of math and an hour of playing chess. Urschel graduated from Penn State with a bachelor's degree in math in three years with a 4.0 grade point average, then got a master's in one year and taught vector calculus trigonometry to students while he was still enrolled.

AT THE MOVIES Outside linebacker Terrell Suggs is a full-fledged film mogul who owns a Maryland-based independent movie production company that has produced several movies that have been featured in film festivals everywhere from Miami to Cannes. Suggs is heavily involved in every aspect of the operations, including sitting in on casting auditions. Suggs constantly plays movies in his locker at the Ravens' training complex, typically the latest action films or comedies, at an extremely high volume. His locker stall has become a popular spot for teammates and reporters.

FUTURE AMBITION Offensive tackle Eugene Monroe founded a developmental real estate firm called 4th Down Partners and is one of a group of investors in a $250 million redevelopment planned between Federal Hill and M&T Bank Stadium in Sharp-Leadenhall in Baltimore. The business venture is an example of Monroe's habit of planning ahead, even though he's playing under a five-year, $37.5 million contract. "I've been around the league long enough to see players get to retirement and have no idea what they want to do, or think they have a plan but don't prepare for it while they're playing," Monroe says. "I am eager to get started now, within the time I have as a player.

HARVARD MAN Rugged fullback and former Ivy League standout Kyle Juszczyk purchased several tickets for friends for the Ravens' AFC Divisional round playoff game against the New England Patriots at Gillette Stadium. Juszczyk expressed confidence that he would be repaid promptly. Most of his well-heeled friends are fellow Harvard alums. "Most of them make more money than me," Juszczyk said. "They can afford to pay me back."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
FS	Kendrick Lewis	Houston
QB	Matt Schaub	Oakland

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
TE	Owen Daniels	Denver
WR	Jacoby Jones	San Diego
OLB	Pernell McPhee	Chicago
DT	Haloti Ngata	Detroit
RB	Bernard Pierce	Jacksonville
WR	Torrey Smith	San Francisco
S	Darian Stewart	Denver

JOE FLACCO, QB

2014 RESULTS (10-6)

Sept. 7	Cincinnati	L	16-23
Sept. 11	Pittsburgh	W	26-6
Sept. 21	at Cleveland	W	23-21
Sept. 28	Carolina	W	38-10
Oct. 5	at Indianapolis	L	13-20
Oct. 12	at Tampa Bay	W	48-17
Oct. 19	Atlanta	W	29-7
Oct. 26	at Cincinnati	L	24-27
Nov. 2	at Pittsburgh	L	23-43
Nov. 9	Tennessee	W	21-7
Nov. 24	at New Orleans	W	34-27
Nov. 30	San Diego	L	33-34
Dec. 7	at Miami	W	28-13
Dec. 14	Jacksonville	W	20-12
Dec. 21	at Houston	L	13-25
Dec. 28	Cleveland	W	20-10
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 3	at Pittsburgh	W	30-17
Jan. 10	at New England	L	31-35

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Joe Flacco	554	344	3,986	27	12
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Justin Forsett	235	1,266	5.4	8	
Bernard Pierce	93	366	3.9	2	
Lorenzo Taliaferro	68	292	4.3	4	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Steve Smith Sr.	79	1,065	13.5	6	
Torrey Smith	49	767	15.7	11	
Owen Daniels	48	527	11.0	4	
Justin Forsett	44	263	6.0	0	
Kamar Aiken	24	267	11.1	3	
Marlon Brown	24	255	10.6	0	

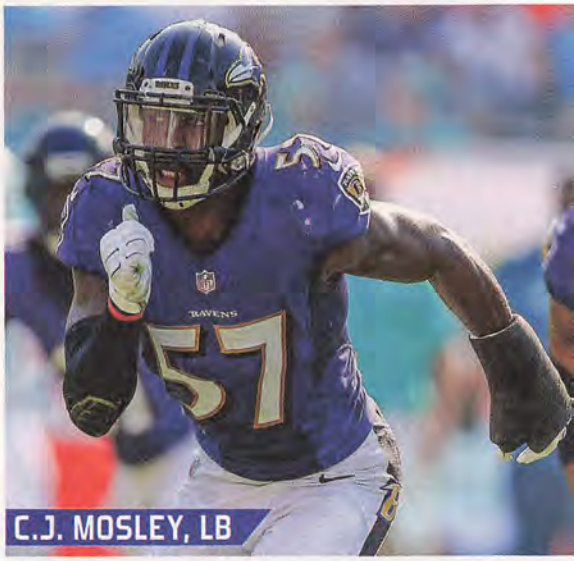
KICKING: Justin Tucker, 29-34 FGs, 42-42 PATs, 129 points
TACKLES: C.J. Mosley, 133; Daryl Smith, 128
SACKS: Elvis Dumervil, 17.0; Terrell Suggs, 12.0
INTERCEPTIONS: C.J. Mosley, 2; Haloti Ngata, 2

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	364.9	12	5
Rushing	126.2	8	4
Passing	238.7	13	6
Scoring	25.6	8	5
Third Down %	41.0	14	6
Punt Returns	9.1	14	6
Kick Returns	28.3	1	1
TEAM DEFENSE	**Stat**	**NFL Rank**	**AFC Rank**
Total	336.9	8	5
Rushing	88.2	4	2
Passing	248.7	23	15
Scoring	18.9	6	3
Interceptions	11	T25	T10
Sacks	49	T2	2
Turnover Differential	+2	T14	T6

should be a strong rotation.

C.J. Mosley is one of the most instinctive young inside linebackers in the NFL. He has great recognition skills and the speed to chase down running backs in the open field. Middle linebacker Daryl Smith is up in years but rewarded the Ravens' faith in him last season when he piled up 128 tackles — five fewer than Mosley — and forced two fumbles. Outside linebacker Courtney Upshaw hasn't shown much more than being a brawny edge-setter; the team needs more pass-rush production out of him. Rookie rush linebacker Za'Darius Smith is the top candidate to replace McPhee as a situational pass rusher.


C.J. MOSLEY, LB

The secondary was decimated by injuries last season. Jimmy Smith was arguably playing at a Pro Bowl level before suffering a Lisfranc foot sprain that required surgery. The Ravens felt good enough about his recovery this offseason to invest a four-year, $48 million contract in him. Veteran corner Lardarius Webb restructured his contract and has made a sound return from a troublesome back injury that hampered him last year. The Ravens lack a proven nickel back and will audition Asa Jackson, Rashaan Melvin and rookie Tray Walker for that role.

Safety was one of the weakest positions on the team last season, but rangy new free safety Kendrick Lewis is expected to stabilize the position. Matt Elam has been a bust through two NFL seasons but will get another chance to redeem himself at strong safety, his natural position. Will Hill revived his career last year after off-field problems cost him his job with the New York Giants. Hill is slated to compete with Elam for a starting position.

SPECIALISTS The kicking game is headlined by Justin Tucker, a former Pro Bowl selection and the most accurate kicker in NFL history. Tucker has enough range that he's a constant scoring threat. The return game is in flux after the Ravens cut Jacoby Jones. Punter Sam Koch averaged 47 yards last season and has good hang time and directional punting skills. Long snapper Morgan Cox is good enough at his job that the Ravens keep signing him to new contracts, even after he tore an ACL for the second time in his career last year.

FINAL ANALYSIS Although the schedule is demanding, the Ravens remain playoff contenders — if a receiving corps in flux can get the job done and if the secondary can avoid the injuries that have prevented them from getting past Tom Brady in the postseason.

RAVENS IN THE DRAFT

C

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Breshad Perriman	WR	6-2	212	UCF
2.	Maxx Williams	TE	6-4	250	Minnesota
3.	Carl Davis	DT	6-5	320	Iowa
4.	Za'Darius Smith	DE	6-4	270	Kentucky
4.	Javorius Allen	RB	6-0	221	USC
4.	Tray Walker	CB	6-2	200	Texas Southern
5.	Nick Boyle	TE	6-4	270	Delaware
5.	Robert Myers	OG	6-5	330	Tennessee State
6.	Darren Waller	WR	6-6	238	Georgia Tech

Breshad Perriman effectively replaces Torrey Smith as a deep threat, creating separation with his rare 4.22 speed. Maxx Williams has drawn comparisons to Jason Witten and should provide a long-term replacement for Dennis Pitta. Carl Davis has a great size-speed ratio and has a nasty streak. He should be properly motivated after expressing frustration that he didn't go in the first two rounds. Za'Darius Smith is an edge-setter with similar traits to Pernell McPhee and should fit into Ravens' scheme as a situational pass rusher. Javorius Allen is a one-cut downhill runner with excellent hands out of the backfield. Tray Walker is a bit developmental, but he has good press coverage skills, size and speed. Nick Boyle is a classic blocking tight end. Darren Waller is a huge red-zone target with vast physical skills but is a bit of a project.

Mosley: Tom DiPace; Perriman: AP

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
5	Flacco, Joe	QB	6-6	245	7	Delaware	D1-08	D1-Bal-08
	Renner, Bryn	QB	6-3	228	1	North Carolina	FA-15	FA-Den-14
8	Schaub, Matt	QB	6-6	235	11	Virginia	FA-Oak-15	D3-Atl-04
10	Wenning, Keith	QB	6-3	222	1	Ball State	D6-14	D6-Bal-14
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
29	Forsett, Justin	RB	5-8	197	7	California	FA-Jac-14	D7-Sea-08
44	Juszczyk, Kyle	FB	6-1	248	2	Harvard	D4b-13	D4b-Bal-13
35	Small, Kiero	FB	5-9	242	1	Arkansas	FA-14	D7-Sea-14
34	Taliaferro, Lorenzo	RB	6-0	226	1	Coastal Carolina	D4b-14	D4b-Bal-14
43	Toussaint, Fitzgerald	RB	5-10	205	1	Michigan	FA-14	FA-Bal-14
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
11	Aiken, Kamar	WR	6-2	215	2	UCF	FA-13	FA-Buf-11
14	Brown, Marlon	WR	6-5	214	2	Georgia	FA-13	FA-Bal-13
17	Butler, Jeremy	WR	6-2	218	1	Tenn.-Martin	FA-14	FA-Bal-14
15	Campanaro, Michael	WR	5-9	185	1	Wake Forest	D7-14	D7-Bal-14
81	Daniels, Owen	TE	6-3	245	9	Wisconsin	FA-Hou-14	D4-Hou-06
80	Gillmore, Crockett	TE	6-6	251	1	Colorado State	D3b-14	D3b-Bal-14
88	Pitta, Dennis	TE	6-4	245	5	BYU	D4-10	D4-Bal-10
85	Reisner, Allen	TE	6-3	255	3	Iowa	FA-14	FA-Min-11
86	Reuland, Konrad	TE	6-5	260	3	Stanford	FA-14	FA-SF-11
13	Robinson, Aldrick	WR	5-10	184	3	SMU	FA-14	D6-Was-11
89	Smith Sr., Steve	WR	5-9	195	14	Utah	FA-Car-14	D3-Car-01
82	Smith, Torrey	WR	6-0	205	4	Maryland	D2-11	D2-Bal-11
84	Supernaw, Phillip	TE	6-5	248	1	Ouachita Baptist	FA-14	FA-Hou-12
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
66	Gradkowski, Gino	G/C	6-3	300	3	Delaware	D4a-12	D4a-Bal-12
74	Hurst, James	T	6-5	308	1	North Carolina	FA-14	FA-Bal-14
77	Jensen, Ryan	C	6-4	306	2	Col. St.-Pueblo	D6b-13	D6b-Bal-13
78	Jones, Marcel	G/T	6-7	320	2	Nebraska	FA-14	D7-NO-12
60	Monroe, Eugene	T	6-5	300	6	Virginia	T-Jac-13	D1-Jac-09
72	Osemele, Kelechi	G/T	6-5	330	3	Iowa State	D2b-12	D2b-Bal-12
76	Reid, Jah	G/T	6-7	320	4	UCF	D3-11	D3-Bal-11
64	Urschel, John	G/C	6-3	308	1	Penn State	D5-14	D5-Bal-14
71	Wagner, Rick	G/T	6-6	310	2	Wisconsin	D5-13	D5-Bal-13
73	Yanda, Marshal	G/T	6-3	305	8	Iowa	D3b-07	D3b-Bal-07
53	Zuttah, Jeremy	G/C	6-4	300	7	Rutgers	T-TB-14	D3-TB-08
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
68	Bilukidi, Christo	DT	6-5	320	3	Georgia State	W-Cin-14	D6-Oak-12
99	Canty, Chris	DE	6-7	317	10	Virginia	FA-NYG-13	D4-Dal-05
67	Guy, Lawrence	DE	6-4	318	3	Arizona State	W-SD-14	D7-GB-11
97	Jernigan, Timmy	DE	6-2	300	1	Florida State	D2-14	D2-Bal-14
95	Lewis-Moore, Kapron	DE	6-4	310	2	Notre Dame	D6a-13	D6a-Bal-13
56	Means, Steven	DE	6-3	260	2	Buffalo	FA-14	D5-TB-13
93	Tyson, DeAngelo	DE	6-2	315	3	Georgia	D7-12	D7-Bal-12
96	Urban, Brent	DE	6-7	295	1	Virginia	D4a-14	D4a-Bal-14
79	Walker, Casey	DT	6-1	340	1	Oklahoma	FA-14	FA-Car-13
98	Williams, Brandon	DT	6-1	335	2	Missouri So.	D3-13	D3-Bal-13
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
59	Brown, Arthur	ILB	6-0	235	2	Kansas State	D2-13	D2-Bal-13
58	Dumervil, Elvis	OLB	5-11	253	9	Louisville	FA-Den-13	D4b-Den-06
50	McClellan, Albert	ILB	6-2	248	4	Marshall	FA-10	FA-Bal-09
57	Mosley, C.J.	LB	6-2	235	1	Alabama	D1-14	D1-Bal-14
54	Orr, Zachary	LB	6-0	237	1	North Texas	FA-14	FA-Bal-14
51	Smith, Daryl	ILB	6-2	250	11	Georgia Tech	FA-Jac-13	D2-Jac-04
55	Suggs, Terrell	OLB	6-3	260	12	Arizona State	D1a-03	D1a-Bal-03
	Thompson, Zach	OLB	6-5	265	1	Wake Forest	FA-15	FA-NYJ-14
91	Upshaw, Courtney	OLB	6-2	272	3	Alabama	D2a-12	D2a-Bal-12
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
31	Brooks, Terrence	S	5-11	200	1	Florida State	D3a-14	D3a-Bal-14
26	Elam, Matt	S	5-10	200	2	Florida	D1-13	D1-Bal-13
42	Greenwood, Chris	CB	6-1	193	3	Albion	FA-14	D5-Det-12
33	Hill, Will	S	6-1	207	3	Florida	FA-14	FA-NYG-12
27	Jackson, Asa	CB	5-10	182	3	Cal Poly	D5-12	D5-Bal-12
39	Jacobs, Tramain	CB	5-11	182	1	Texas A&M	FA-14	FA-Bal-14
41	Levine, Anthony	CB	5-11	203	3	Tennessee State	FA-12	FA-Bal-12
23	Lewis, Kendrick	S	6-0	198	5	Ole Miss	FA-Hou-15	D5a-KC-10
38	Melvin, Rashaan	CB	6-2	193	1	Northern Illinois	FA-14	FA-TB-13
32	Pointer, Quinton	CB	5-9	186	3	UNLV	FA-14	FA-StL-12
22	Smith, Jimmy	CB	6-2	209	4	Colorado	D1-11	D1-Bal-11
28	Trawick, Brynden	S	6-2	225	2	Troy	FA-13	FA-Bal-13
21	Webb, Lardarius	CB	5-10	182	6	Nicholls State	D3-09	D3-Bal-09
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
46	Cox, Morgan	LS	6-4	233	5	Tennessee	FA-10	FA-Bal-10
4	Koch, Sam	P	6-1	222	9	Nebraska	D6a-06	D6a-Bal-06
48	Scales, Patrick	LS	6-4	228	1	Utah State	FA-14	FA-Bal-11
9	Tucker, Justin	K	6-0	189	3	Texas	FA-12	FA-Bal-12

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	89	Steve Smith
	14	Marlon Brown
WR	18	Breshad Perriman (R)
	15	Michael Campanaro
LT	60	Eugene Monroe
	74	James Hurst
LG	72	Kelechi Osemele
	76	Jah Reid
C	53	Jeremy Zuttah
	77	Ryan Jensen
RG	73	Marshal Yanda
	64	John Urschel
RT	71	Rick Wagner
	76	Jah Reid
TE	87	Maxx Williams (R)
	80	Crockett Gillmore
QB	5	Joe Flacco
	8	Matt Schaub
FB	44	Kyle Juszczyk
	40	Kiero Small
RB	29	Justin Forsett
	37	Javorius Allen (R)

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	97	Timmy Jernigan
	93	DeAngelo Tyson
NT	98	Brandon Williams
	94	Carl Davis (R)
DE	99	Chris Canty
	96	Brent Urban
OLB	55	Terrell Suggs
	90	Za'Darius Smith (R)
ILB	57	C.J. Mosley
	59	Arthur Brown
MLB	51	Daryl Smith
	54	Zach Orr
OLB	91	Courtney Upshaw
	58	Elvis Dumervil
CB	21	Lardarius Webb
	27	Asa Jackson
CB	22	Jimmy Smith
	38	Rashaan Melvin
SS	33	Will Hill
	26	Matt Elam
FS	23	Kendrick Lewis
	41	Anthony Levine

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Justin Tucker	KR	15	Michael Campanaro
P	4	Sam Koch	PR	15	Michael Campanaro

SCOUTING THE RAVENS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP BALTIMORE "The Ravens let Torrey Smith walk as a free agent, but they got great mileage out of Steve Smith and drafted UCF wide receiver Breshad Perriman and tight end Maxx Williams in the first two rounds of the draft. ... The offensive line rebounded in 2015 and stabilized with Eugene Monroe and Ricky Wagner playing the tackle spots with Kelechi Osemele and Marshal Yanda being solid on the interior. ... It took a year, but the Baltimore defense returned to the top 10 statistically in 2015 after some growing pains the previous season without Ray Lewis and Ed Reed. ... With Haloti Ngata on the verge of being cut due to his high cap number, GM Ozzie Newsome was able to swing a trade with Detroit for two mid-round draft picks. ... He had that luxury because of the play of young defensive tackles Brandon Williams and Timmy Jernigan. ... C.J. Mosley was a gift at pick No. 17 in 2014 and emerged as an elite linebacker as a rookie. ... This will be a huge year for linebacker Arthur Brown and free safety Matt Elam, who have both been major disappointments in their early careers. ... Jimmy Smith finally put it all together in terms of his consistency and availability on the field, and they will cross their fingers that Lardarius Webb will stay healthy in 2015."

2015 SCHEDULE

					2014 NFL RANKINGS			
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	at Denver	4:25	12-4	402.9 (4)	305.2 (3)	30.1 (2)	22.1 (16)
2	Sept. 20	at Oakland	4:05	3-13	282.2 (32)	357.6 (21)	15.8 (31)	28.3 (32)
3	Sept. 27	Cincinnati	1:00	10-5-1	348.0 (15)	359.3 (22)	22.8 (15)	21.5 (12)
4	Oct. 1	at Pittsburgh (Thu.)	8:25	11-5	411.1 (2)	353.4 (18)	27.3 (7)	23.0 (18)
5	Oct. 11	Cleveland	1:00	7-9	324.6 (23)	366.1 (23)	18.7 (27)	21.1 (9)
6	Oct. 18	at San Francisco	4:25	8-8	327.4 (20)	321.4 (5)	19.1 (25)	21.3 (10)
7	Oct. 26	at Arizona (Mon.)	8:30	11-5	319.8 (24)	368.2 (24)	19.4 (24)	18.7 (5)
8	Nov. 1	San Diego	1:00	9-7	341.6 (18)	338.3 (9)	21.8 (17)	21.8 (13)
9		BYE						
10	Nov. 15	Jacksonville	1:00	3-13	289.6 (31)	370.8 (26)	15.6 (32)	25.8 (26)
11	Nov. 22	St. Louis	1:00	6-10	314.7 (28)	351.6 (17)	20.3 (20)	22.1 (16)
12	Nov. 30	at Cleveland (Mon.)	8:30	7-9	324.6 (23)	366.1 (23)	18.7 (27)	21.1 (9)
13	Dec. 6	at Miami	1:00	8-8	350.1 (14)	343.4 (12)	24.3 (11)	23.3 (20)
14	Dec. 13	Seattle	8:30	12-4	375.8 (9)	267.1 (1)	24.6 (10)	15.9 (1)
15	Dec. 20	Kansas City	1:00	9-7	318.8 (25)	330.5 (7)	22.1 (16)	17.6 (3)
16	Dec. 27	Pittsburgh	8:30	11-5	411.1 (2)	353.4 (18)	27.3 (7)	23.0 (18)
17	Jan. 3	at Cincinnati	1:00	10-5-1	348.0 (15)	359.3 (22)	22.8 (15)	21.5 (12)

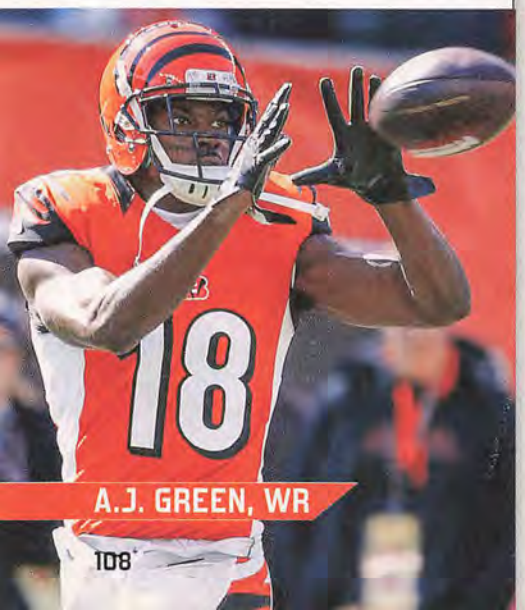
CINCINNATI BENGALS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Marvin Lewis
RECORD WITH TEAM: 100–90–2
CAREER RECORD: 100–90–2
ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/OFFENSIVE LINE: Paul Alexander
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Hue Jackson
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Paul Guenther
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Darrin Simmons
QUARTERBACKS: Ken Zampese
RUNNING BACKS: Kyle Caskey
WIDE RECEIVERS: James Urban
TIGHT ENDS: Jonathan Hayes
DEFENSIVE LINE: Jay Hayes
LINEBACKERS: Matt Burke
DEFENSIVE BACKS: Vance Joseph/Mark Carrier

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs



A.J. GREEN, WR

2 AFC NORTH FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

PRESIDENT: Mike Brown
SENIOR VP OF PLAYER PERSONNEL: Pete Brown
EXECUTIVE VP: Katie Blackburn
VP OF PLAYER PERSONNEL: Paul Brown
DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL: Duke Tobin
STADIUM: Paul Brown Stadium (65,515)
SURFACE: UBU Sports Speed Series S5-M
WEBSITE: www.bengals.com
TICKETS: 513-621-8383
TRAINING CAMP: Paul Brown Stadium (Cincinnati, Ohio)

Marvin Lewis is dubbing this season a "revival." There's been new construction at Paul Brown Stadium to upgrade the training facilities for the players as well as the game-day experience for fans. It's a visual metaphor for the team itself: While things have been good in Cincinnati the past few seasons, they haven't been good enough.

Four straight playoff berths have equaled four straight first-round defeats. Each loss has been similar in nature; the Bengals play well in the first half only to be dominated and eliminated in the second half. The offseason didn't bring major changes to the roster, but there have been subtle moves, such as bringing back defensive end Michael Johnson and adding former Green Bay linebacker A.J. Hawk for stability in the front seven.

Some things don't change, such as the need for quarterback Andy Dalton and wide receiver A.J. Green to step up in the biggest moments. When that revival takes place, then the Bengals can be thought of as a real contender.

OFFENSE Dalton enters his fifth season as the starter. He has shown he's capable of taking a team to the playoffs, but whether the Bengals have matched up against elite quarterbacks in the postseason (Philip Rivers, Andrew Luck) or the pedestrian sort (T.J. Yates, Matt Schaub), Dalton has been outperformed by the opposing signal caller. Offensive coordinator Hue Jackson took the ball out of Dalton's hands more than predecessor Jay Gruden last season, and there's reason to expect the focus of the offense again this season to be running the ball.

The backfield combination of Jeremy Hill and Giovani Bernard produced more than 1,800 yards and 14 touchdowns on the ground, as well as 70 receptions. They are the most reliable weapons in this offense, and Jackson doesn't care if defenses know they're coming. Put it this way: Jackson wouldn't have called for a pass on the goal line with the Super Bowl in the balance.

A return to health by numerous receivers should make Dalton more efficient and the passing game more productive. Green missed three games entirely plus significant portions of two others with toe and biceps injuries, then didn't play in the postseason because of a concussion. Wide receiver Marvin Jones missed the entire season with a broken foot. Tight end Tyler Eifert had three catches in the opening game before suffering a dislocated elbow that sidelined him for the rest of the season.

The offensive line returns intact, led by left tackle Andrew Whitworth. The Bengals used their first two draft picks on tackles Cedric Ogbuehi and Jake Fisher, but don't take that as a sign that the heart and soul of the Bengals is going anywhere anytime soon. Whitworth sets the tone on the field and in the locker room. He may be 33 and entering his 10th season, but he's still an elite left tackle. Left guard Clint Boling was re-signed to a five-year deal, while the Bengals picked up the option for 2016 on right guard Kevin Zeitler. Center Russell Bodine will be in his second season, while Andre Smith and Eric Winston will get competition from Fisher at right tackle.

DEFENSE This unit needs new life infused into it. A lot of that infusion needs to come from recent draft picks whose time has come to put up or shut up.

The Bengals are hopeful that the return of Johnson after an ill-fated season in Tampa Bay will help revitalize a defensive line that lost its moxie last season. The Bengals managed just 20 sacks. No player outside of Carlos Dunlap (eight) and Geno Atkins (three) had as many as two sacks. Bringing back Johnson will allow the Bengals to put Wallace Gilberry back into the specialist role in which he was so effective from 2012-13. Gilberry can play inside or on the end, but he played too much last season. The strength of the line in the past was in its rotation, but that rotation failed the Bengals last season. There's a question as to whether Geno Atkins will ever regain the All-Pro form he had prior to an ACL tear in 2013. He was just another guy last year, showing only flashes of the power and quickness that made offenses fear him.

Margus Hunt was a project when the Bengals drafted him out of SMU two years ago. The Estonia native had played football for just four years when the Bengals took him in the second round. The project phase of Hunt's development is over. It's time to put that 6'8", 290-pound body to good use. Hunt was plagued by an ankle injury last season, but he needs to be more than a body on the field. His size and athleticism make him a perfect complement in the rotation with Dunlap and Johnson.

The great unknown of the defense is linebacker Vontaze Burfict. He played in just five games

Dalton, Green: Sportfolio; Cheerleader: Margaret Bowles

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

THRILL HILL Running back Jeremy Hill led the NFL in rushing over the final nine weeks of last season with 929 yards. He had five 100-yard games, including four of 140 yards or more. The only other running backs to have at least four 140-yard games in their rookie seasons are Hall of Famers Eric Dickerson (five in 1983) and Curtis Martin (four in 1995).

DUBIOUS MARK Four straight playoff appearances are nothing to laugh at. Four straight first-round exits are nothing to get excited about. The Bengals are one of only four teams that have made the postseason each of the last four seasons, along with Denver, New England and Green Bay. Of course, each of those teams has at least won a conference title and played in a Super Bowl, with the Patriots and Packers each winning one as part of their current six-year playoff runs. The Bengals are the first team in NFL history to lose four consecutive opening-round playoff games.

TEAMMATES AGAIN A.J. Hawk grew up in Centerville, a suburb of Dayton about 40 miles north of Cincinnati. He played on the same teams as Bengals kicker Mike Nugent at the youth level, then at Centerville High School and again at Ohio State. Nugent was Hawk's quarterback for one year in high school, and they helped Ohio State win a national title in 2002. Nugent was signed to a two-year extension this offseason. "My wife has known his wife Emily since they were little kids, and I've known Nuge forever, too," says Hawk. "Nuge loves it here, and obviously he was re-signed. It's fun. I get to play high school, college and now in the league with Nuge. It's a great thing."

WELCOME BACK There are several familiar faces re-joining the Bengals after having left the franchise. Four of the six unrestricted free agents the Bengals signed from other teams had previously played for the organization: defensive end Michael Johnson, defensive tackle Pat Sims, cornerback Brandon Ghee and quarterback Josh Johnson. Michael Johnson was the most notable of the group, coming back after one season with Tampa Bay. He had signed a five-year, $43.75 million deal with the Buccaneers, but they cut him after one injury-hampered season in which he had 27 tackles and four sacks.

CAP & GOWN Michael Johnson finished up his degree work at Georgia Tech this offseason and walked across the stage during graduation ceremonies in May. The Bengals drafted him in the third round in 2009, and he went from being a third-down pass rusher to a vital every-down player for them before he left for Tampa Bay in free agency last year.

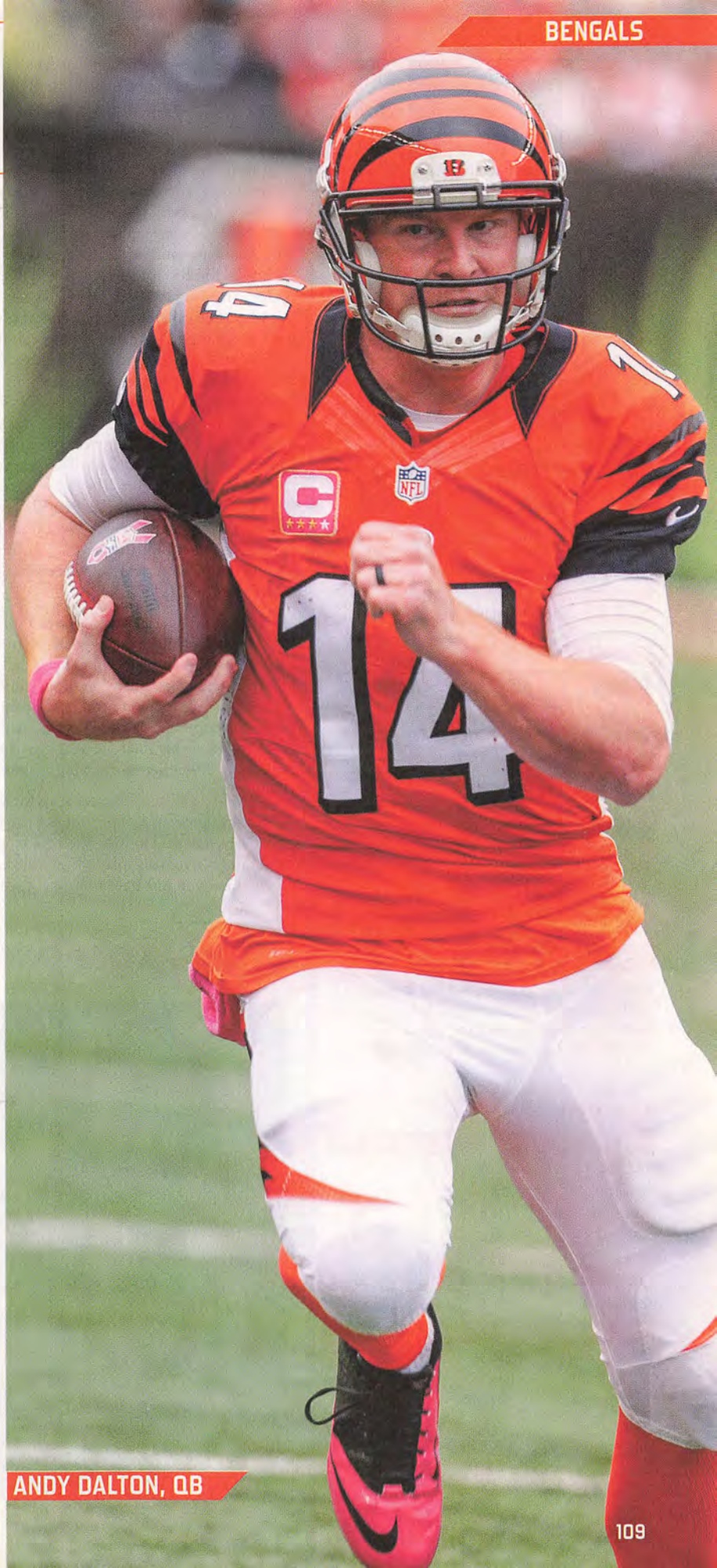
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
CB	Brandon Ghee	Tennessee
LB	A.J. Hawk	Green Bay
QB	Josh Johnson	San Francisco
DE	Michael Johnson	Tampa Bay
WR	Denarius Moore	Oakland
DT	Pat Sims	Oakland

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
DE	Robert Geathers	Free Agent
TE	Jermaine Gresham	Free Agent
S	Taylor Mays	Minnesota
OL	Marshall Newhouse	N.Y. Giants
CB	Terence Newman	Minnesota
OL	Mike Pollak	Free Agent



ANDY DALTON, QB

2014 RESULTS (10-5-1)

Sept. 7	at Baltimore	W	23-16
Sept. 14	Atlanta	W	24-10
Sept. 21	Tennessee	W	33-7
Oct. 5	at New England	L	17-43
Oct. 12	Carolina (ot)	T	37-37
Oct. 19	at Indianapolis	L	0-27
Oct. 26	Baltimore	W	27-24
Nov. 2	Jacksonville	W	33-23
Nov. 6	Cleveland	L	3-24
Nov. 16	at New Orleans	W	27-10
Nov. 23	at Houston	W	22-13
Nov. 30	at Tampa Bay	W	14-13
Dec. 7	Pittsburgh	L	21-42
Dec. 14	at Cleveland	W	30-0
Dec. 22	Denver	W	37-28
Dec. 28	at Pittsburgh	L	17-27
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 4	at Indianapolis	L	10-26

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Andy Dalton	481	309	3,398	19	17
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Jeremy Hill	222	1,124	5.1	9	
Giovani Bernard	168	680	4.0	5	
Andy Dalton	60	169	2.8	4	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
A.J. Green	69	1,041	15.1	6	
Jermaine Gresham	62	460	7.4	5	
Mohamed Sanu	56	790	14.1	5	
Giovani Bernard	43	349	8.1	2	
Jeremy Hill	27	215	8.0	0	
Brandon Tate	17	193	11.4	1	

KICKING: Mike Nugent, 26-33 FGs, 39-39 PATs, 117 points
TACKLES: Vincent Rey, 121; Reggie Nelson, 95
SACKS: Carlos Dunlap, 8.0; Geno Atkins, 3.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Reggie Nelson, 4; Three players tied with 3

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	348.0	15	7
Rushing	134.2	6	3
Passing	213.8	21	10
Scoring	22.8	15	8
Third Down %	39.8	18	8
Punt Returns	11.0	T6	2
Kick Returns	27.6	4	4
TEAM DEFENSE	**Stat**	**NFL Rank**	**AFC Rank**
Total	359.3	22	13
Rushing	116.3	20	9
Passing	243.0	20	12
Scoring	21.5	12	7
Interceptions	20	T3	T2
Sacks	20	32	16
Turnover Differential	0	T16	T8

last season because of various injuries, including two concussions suffered in the first two games of the season. There aren't many players with his aggressiveness and instincts for diagnosing a play and making the tackle. That was missing from the defense throughout 2014. Burfict had microfracture knee surgery in the offseason, so just how good he can be this year remains to be seen. That's one reason Hawk was signed; the other is for his leadership. Much like James Harrison in 2013, Hawk is a player who's been there and done that. He's not at the top of his game anymore, but he can still provide a strong presence.

Dre Kirkpatrick and Darqueze Dennard were first-round picks in 2012 and 2014, respectively. They were stuck behind Leon Hall, Terence Newman and Adam Jones last year. That won't be the case this season. They'll be starting sooner than later. The Bengals are solid at safety with Reggie Nelson and George Iloka, a fourth-year player who is emerging as one of the better young safeties in the NFL.

JEREMY HILL, RB

SPECIALISTS The Bengals have a solid trio in kicker Mike Nugent, punter Kevin Huber and long snapper Clark Harris. Huber is finally getting some due for his ability to control field position with punts inside the 20. He has a career 4-to-1 ratio on punts inside the 20 vs. touchbacks. Nugent showed off his mental toughness by making 16 of his final 17 field-goal attempts, including a 57-yarder in the playoffs, after missing a 36-yarder in overtime against Carolina in October.

FINAL ANALYSIS The scenarios for the Bengals haven't changed much from a season ago. They have proven they are among the top six teams in the AFC. They are playoff-worthy. They have talent. Do they have the mental toughness to get over the hump? At some point you just have to make plays. Everyone has to deal with injuries. No team is always at its best. Sometimes you just have to find a way to win a game.

DRAFT 2015 *BENGALS* IN THE DRAFT

C

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Cedric Ogbuehi	OT	6-5	306	Texas A&M
2.	Jake Fisher	OT	6-6	306	Oregon
3.	Tyler Kroft	TE	6-5	246	Rutgers
3.	Paul Dawson	LB	6-0	235	TCU
4.	Josh Shaw	CB	6-0	201	USC
4.	Marcus Hardison	DT	6-3	307	Arizona State
5.	C.J. Uzomah	TE	6-6	262	Auburn
6.	Derron Smith	S	5-10	200	Fresno State
7.	Mario Alford	WR	5-8	180	West Virginia

Six of Cincinnati's first seven picks were from non-skill positions as the Bengals looked to add some beef in and around the line of scrimmage. It was an odd move to take offensive tackles with the first two picks, but Jake Fisher was among their targets in the first round, so when he fell to them in the second round, it was an easy choice to make. Cedric Ogbuehi is coming off an ACL tear from last December's bowl game and may not be ready until the middle of this season, but the Bengals very well may have their bookend tackles of the future. Paul Dawson may end up as the most important member of this draft class as Vontaze Burfict is coming off knee surgery — besides the fact that Burfict suffered at least two concussions last season. Mario Alford's speed can play well on returns or at receiver.

Hill: Sportfolio; Ogbuehi: Layne Murdoch Jr.

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY.
14	Dalton, Andy	QB	6-2	220	4	TCU	D2-11	D2-Cin-11
8	Johnson, Josh	QB	6-3	205	6	San Diego	FA-SF-15	D5-TB-08
5	McCarron, AJ	QB	6-3	220	1	Alabama	D5-14	D5-Cin-14
3	Pryor, Terrelle	QB	6-4	233	3	Ohio State	FA-15	SD3-Oak-11
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
25	Bernard, Giovani	RB	5-9	208	2	North Carolina	D2a-13	D2a-Cin-13
33	Burkhead, Rex	RB	5-10	215	2	Nebraska	D6a-13	D6a-Cin-13
32	Hill, Jeremy	RB	6-1	235	1	LSU	D2-14	D2-Cin-14
30	Peerman, Cedric	RB	5-10	214	5	Virginia	W-Det-10	D6-Bal-09
34	Wilder Jr., James	RB	6-3	232	1	Florida State	FA-14	FA-Cin-14
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
83	Brock, Kevin	TE	6-5	264	2	Rutgers	FA-13	FA-Car-09
85	Eifert, Tyler	TE	6-6	250	2	Notre Dame	D1-13	D1-Cin-13
18	Green, A.J.	WR	6-4	207	4	Georgia	D1-11	D1-Cin-11
87	Hamilton, Cobi	WR	6-2	197	1	Arkansas	FA-14	D6b-Cin-13
89	Hewitt, Ryan	TE/FB	6-4	254	1	Stanford	FA-14	FA-Cin-14
82	Jones, Marvin	WR	6-2	198	3	California	D5b-12	D5b-Cin-12
17	Moore, Denarius	WR	6-0	190	4	Tennessee	FA-Oak-15	D5-Oak-11
80	Murphy, Jake	TE	6-4	252	1	Utah	FA-14	FA-Oak-14
16	Reese, Tevin	WR	5-10	170	1	Baylor	FA-14	D7-SD-14
12	Sanu, Mohamed	WR	6-2	210	3	Rutgers	D3a-12	D3a-Cin-12
19	Tate, Brandon	WR	6-1	195	6	North Carolina	W-NE-11	D3-NE-09
86	Wright, James	WR	6-1	201	1	LSU	D7a-14	D7a-Cin-14
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
61	Bodine, Russell	C	6-3	306	1	North Carolina	D4-14	D4-Cin-14
65	Boling, Clint	G	6-5	310	4	Georgia	D4-11	D4-Cin-11
64	France, Dan	T	6-5	315	1	Michigan State	FA-14	FA-Cin-14
72	Hawkinson, Tanner	G	6-5	300	2	Kansas	D5-13	D5-Cin-13
66	Hopkins, Trey	G	6-3	310	1	Texas	FA-14	FA-Cin-14
60	Johnson, T.J.	C/G	6-4	310	1	South Carolina	D7b-13	D7b-Cin-13
79	O'Donnell, Matthew	T	6-9	340	1	Queen's	FA-15	FA-Cin-11
71	Smith, Andre	T	6-4	340	6	Alabama	D1-09	D1-Cin-09
77	Whitworth, Andrew	T	6-7	330	9	LSU	D2-06	D2-Cin-06
73	Winston, Eric	T	6-7	302	9	Miami	FA-14	D3-Hou-06
68	Zeitler, Kevin	G	6-4	315	3	Wisconsin	D1b-12	D1b-Cin-12
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
97	Atkins, Geno	DT	6-1	303	5	Georgia	D4a-10	D4a-Cin-10
93	Clarke, Will	DE	6-6	271	1	West Virginia	D3-14	D3-Cin-14
96	Dunlap, Carlos	DE	6-6	280	5	Florida	D2-10	D2-Cin-10
76	Geathers, Kwame	DT	6-6	335	2	Georgia	FA-14	FA-SD-13
95	Gilberry, Wallace	DE	6-2	275	7	Alabama	FA-12	FA-NYG-08
99	Hunt, Margus	DE	6-8	290	2	SMU	D2b-13	D2b-Cin-13
90	Johnson, Michael	DE	6-7	270	6	Georgia Tech	FA-TB-15	D3a-Cin-09
70	Montgomery, Sam	DE	6-3	270	2	LSU	FA-14	D3b-Hou-13
94	Peko, Domata	DT/FB	6-3	322	9	Michigan State	D4-06	D4-Cin-06
92	Sims, Pat	DT	6-2	310	7	Auburn	FA-Oak-15	D3a-Cin-08
75	Still, Devon	DT	6-5	310	3	Penn State	D2-12	D2-Cin-12
98	Thompson, Brandon	DT	6-2	315	3	Clemson	D3b-12	D3b-Cin-12
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
55	Burfict, Vontaze	LB	6-1	248	3	Arizona State	FA-12	FA-Cin-12
56	Carter, Chris	LB	6-1	248	4	Fresno State	FA-14	D5-Pit-11
51	DiManche, Jayson	LB	6-1	244	2	Southern Illinois	FA-13	FA-Cin-13
53	Flowers, Marquis	LB	6-3	240	1	Arizona	D6-14	D6-Cin-14
50	Hawk, A.J.	LB	6-1	235	9	Ohio State	FA-GB-15	D1-GB-06
52	Johnson, Nico	LB	6-2	249	2	Alabama	PS-KC-14	D4-KC-13
59	Lamur, Emmanuel	LB	6-4	240	3	Kansas State	FA-12	FA-Cin-12
58	Maualuga, Rey	LB	6-2	255	6	USC	D2-09	D2-Cin-09
56	Porter, Sean	LB	6-1	242	2	Texas A&M	D4-13	D4-Cin-13
57	Rey, Vincent	LB	6-0	255	4	Duke	FA-10	FA-Cin-10
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
21	Dennard, Darqueze	CB	5-11	202	1	Michigan State	D1-14	D1-Cin-14
22	Ghee, Brandon	CB	6-0	200	5	Wake Forest	FA-15	D3-Cin-10
29	Hall, Leon	CB	5-11	195	8	Michigan	D1-07	D1-Cin-07
43	Iloka, George	S	6-4	220	3	Boise State	D5c-12	D5c-Cin-12
24	Jones, Adam	CB	5-10	186	8	West Virginia	FA-10	D1-Ten-05
44	Keo, Shiloh	S	5-11	208	3	Idaho	FA-15	D5-Hou-11
27	Kirkpatrick, Dre	CB	6-2	190	3	Alabama	D1a-12	D1a-Cin-12
37	Lewis-Harris, Chris	CB	5-10	186	2	Chattanooga	FA-12	FA-Cin-12
39	McCalebb, Onterio	CB	5-10	175	1	Auburn	FA-13	FA-Cin-13
20	Nelson, Reggie	S	5-11	210	8	Florida	T-Jac-10	D1-Jac-07
36	Williams, Shawn	S	6-0	216	2	Georgia	D3-13	D3-Cin-13
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
46	Harris, Clark	LS	6-5	245	6	Rutgers	FA-09	D7-GB-07
10	Huber, Kevin	P	6-1	214	6	Cincinnati	D5-09	D5-Cin-09
2	Nugent, Mike	K	5-10	190	10	Ohio State	FA-10	D2-NYJ-05

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	82	Marvin Jones
	17	Denarius Moore
WR	18	A.J. Green
	12	Mohamed Sanu
LT	77	Andrew Whitworth
	74	Jake Fisher (R)
LG	65	Clint Boling
	72	Tanner Hawkinson
C	61	Russell Bodine
	60	T.J. Johnson
RG	68	Kevin Zeitler
	60	T.J. Johnson
RT	71	Andre Smith
	73	Eric Winston
TE	85	Tyler Eifert
	81	Tyler Kroft (R)
QB	14	Andy Dalton
	5	A.J. McCarron
FB	89	Ryan Hewitt
	94	Domata Peko
RB	32	Jeremy Hill
	25	Giovani Bernard

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	96	Carlos Dunlap
	95	Wallace Gilberry
DT	94	Domata Peko
	98	Brandon Thompson
DT	97	Geno Atkins
	92	Pat Sims
DE	90	Michael Johnson
	99	Margus Hunt
SLB	59	Emmanuel Lamur
	57	Vincent Rey
MLB	58	Rey Maualuga
	50	A.J. Hawk
WLB	55	Vontaze Burfict
	47	Paul Dawson (R)
CB	24	Adam Jones
	29	Leon Hall
CB	27	Dre Kirkpatrick
	21	Darqueze Dennard
SS	43	George Iloka
	40	Derron Smith (R)
FS	20	Reggie Nelson
	36	Shawn Williams

SPECIALISTS

K	2	Mike Nugent
P	10	Kevin Huber
KR	24	Adam Jones
PR	24	Adam Jones

SCOUTING THE BENGALS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP CINCINNATI "Marvin Lewis received a one-year contract extension through 2016, so that will lessen some but not all the pressure on the Bengals as they try to get a breakthrough win in the playoffs. Along with QB Andy Dalton, the focus is squarely on a team that has been a consistent winner during the regular season but a failure in the postseason. ... Cincinnati has a very solid group of offensive players with a true superstar in A.J. Green. ... They could definitely use another wide receiver right now but opted for two tackles in the early part of the draft, Texas A&M's Cedric Ogbuehi and Oregon's Jake Fisher, for future use. ... Tight end Tyler Eifert will have an expanded role in 2015 with the departure of Jermaine Gresham in free agency. ... Running back Jeremy Hill had a big rookie year, and with a healthy Giovani Bernard, they should be even more dynamic this season. ... Defensively, the Bengals were dead last in sacks with 20 for the entire campaign. End Michael Johnson inked a huge deal with Tampa Bay only to be released a year later and re-sign with the Bengals. They have to get more production from Wallace Gilberry and Margus Hunt in order to get their defensive line rotation back in order. ... The secondary is going through a transition with the emergence of cornerback Dre Kirkpatrick, who should take over a starting full-time role."

2015 SCHEDULE

					2014 NFL RANKINGS			
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	at Oakland	4:25	3-13	282.2 (32)	357.6 (21)	15.8 (31)	28.3 (32)
2	Sept. 20	San Diego	1:00	9-7	341.6 (18)	338.3 (9)	21.8 (17)	21.8 (13)
3	Sept. 27	at Baltimore	1:00	10-6	364.9 (12)	336.9 (8)	25.6 (8)	18.9 (6)
4	Oct. 4	Kansas City	1:00	9-7	318.8 (25)	330.5 (7)	22.1 (16)	17.6 (3)
5	Oct. 11	Seattle	1:00	12-4	375.8 (9)	267.1 (1)	24.6 (10)	15.9 (1)
6	Oct. 18	at Buffalo	1:00	9-7	318.5 (26)	312.2 (4)	21.4 (18)	18.1 (4)
7		BYE						
8	Nov. 1	at Pittsburgh	1:00	11-5	411.1 (2)	353.4 (18)	27.3 (7)	23.0 (18)
9	Nov. 5	Cleveland (Thu.)	8:25	7-9	324.6 (23)	366.1 (23)	18.7 (27)	21.1 (9)
10	Nov. 16	Houston (Mon.)	8:30	9-7	344.6 (17)	348.2 (16)	23.3 (14)	19.2 (7)
11	Nov. 22	at Arizona	4:05	11-5	319.8 (24)	368.2 (24)	19.4 (24)	18.7 (5)
12	Nov. 29	St. Louis	1:00	6-10	314.7 (28)	351.6 (17)	20.3 (20)	22.1 (16)
13	Dec. 6	at Cleveland	1:00	7-9	324.6 (23)	366.1 (23)	18.7 (27)	21.1 (9)
14	Dec. 13	Pittsburgh	1:00	11-5	411.1 (2)	353.4 (18)	27.3 (7)	23.0 (18)
15	Dec. 20	at San Francisco	8:30	8-8	327.4 (20)	321.4 (5)	19.1 (25)	21.3 (10)
16	Dec. 28	at Denver (Mon.)	8:30	12-4	402.9 (4)	305.2 (3)	30.1 (2)	22.1 (16)
17	Jan. 3	Baltimore	1:00	10-6	364.9 (12)	336.9 (8)	25.6 (8)	18.9 (6)

CLEVELAND BROWNS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Mike Pettine
RECORD WITH TEAM: 7–9
CAREER RECORD: 7–9
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: John DeFilippo
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jim O'Neil
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Chris Tabor
QUARTERBACKS: Kevin O'Connell
RUNNING BACKS: Wilbert Montgomery
WIDE RECEIVERS: Joker Phillips
TIGHT ENDS: Brian Angelichio
OFFENSIVE LINE: Andy Moeller
DEFENSIVE LINE: Anthony Weaver
LINEBACKERS: Chuck Driesbach
SECONDARY: Jeff Hafley

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2010	5
2011	4
2012	5
2013	4
2014	7

JOE THOMAS, OT

4 AFC NORTH FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER: Jimmy Haslam
PRESIDENT: Alec Scheiner
GENERAL MANAGER: Ray Farmer
VICE PRESIDENT OF PLAYER PERSONNEL: Morocco Brown
STADIUM: FirstEnergy Stadium (67,407)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.clevelandbrowns.com
TICKETS: 440-824-3434
TRAINING CAMP: Cleveland Browns Training Facility (Berea, Ohio)

The Browns enter 2015 having changed offensive coordinators again, still searching for a real answer at quarterback and still trying to climb out of fourth place in the rugged AFC North. Though this year's team should have better overall talent and depth and should benefit from having coach Mike Pettine and several key veterans back, it's fair to wonder if there's enough offensive firepower to allow the Browns to compete with the league's best teams.

The defense has been upgraded, and with better tackling and better health among the front seven, there should be a noticeable improvement against the run. The secondary is an experienced and well-paid bunch, too, and has leaders and playmakers in Joe Haden, Donte Whitner, Tashaun Gipson and Tramon Williams.

The offensive line is the team's strongest and deepest unit, with Alex Mack set to return at center after an injury-shortened 2014 season and perennial Pro Bowler Joe Thomas back at left tackle. Thomas will tutor second-year guard Joel Bitonio and 2015 first-rounder Cameron Erving, who is Mack's likely eventual successor at center but could play right guard or right tackle. The Browns will try to establish the run and hope to throw off play-action from that.

They're still building for the future, too; a year after spending two first-round picks on early draft entries who brought maturity issues to the NFL, the Browns went with older, productive players, many of whom figure as 2015 contributors and 2016 starters.

OFFENSE Brian Hoyer was allowed to leave after starting 13 games at quarterback before giving way to Johnny Manziel, who was totally overwhelmed in two starts and spent 10 weeks of the offseason in a rehab center for undisclosed issues. Veteran journeyman Josh McCown was signed to start at quarterback, and veteran receivers Dwayne Bowe and Brian Hartline were added after the Browns learned their most talented receiver, Josh Gordon, was suspended for at least one year.

Tight end Jordan Cameron departed via free agency, and offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan asked out, meaning 2015 marks a fresh start for almost everybody who will touch the ball. Running backs Terrance West and Isaiah Crowell showed promise as rookies, and both are strong, physical runners who figure to have a chance to improve as they get more comfortable with the NFL game. Slot receiver Andrew Hawkins is a playmaker whose opportunities to be productive figure to depend on the ability of Bowe and Hartline to get open down the field.

Manziel returned to the team in the spring, but the Browns' decision not to draft a quarterback affirmed the assumption that McCown will start 2015 and Manziel will be given a chance to learn how to be an NFL quarterback from the sideline. His task is to prove to the team that his admitted work-ethic issues from last season are in the past. McCown took a beating last year in Tampa Bay, but the Browns believe with a better offensive line and a run-first approach, he'll be more like the player who kept the Bears afloat in 2013 when Jay Cutler was injured.

Improvement will be judged by efficiency and on the scoreboard. The 2014 Browns had the league's worst completion percentage (54.6) and third-down success rate and were 27th in the NFL in scoring. The loss of Mack was huge to the offense's identity and ability to convert key short-yardage chances. But even with the line set to return intact — and possibly with more depth — the Browns still have to prove they have the skill players to turn routine plays into big gains and consistently score more than 20 points per game.

The one offensive certainty: Thomas will come to play. Amazingly, the Browns left tackle has not missed an offensive snap since he was drafted in 2007.

DEFENSE The Browns have been aggressive in consecutive offseasons in trying to add talent to every level of the defense and believe they've built a unit with the necessary talent and depth to be among the best in the AFC.

The defensive line was overvalued a year ago and suffered when injuries hit. But the linebacking corps got big seasons from Karlos Dansby and Paul Kruger, and the secondary added Williams to a group that could really make a leap if 2014 first-round pick Justin Gilbert can overcome the maturity issues that plagued him a year ago.

Gipson contended for the NFL interception lead, and though Whitner is 30, he's still active and disruptive. Haden has emerged as one of the league's top cornerbacks, and the Browns believe Gilbert has the talent to be a playmaker, too. Even with his issues last season he

Thomas, Fan: Kyle Lanzer; Haden: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

IRONMAN Offensive tackle Joe Thomas has never missed a single snap in his eight-year career, starting and finishing every game at left tackle and going to the Pro Bowl at the end of every season. Alex Mack had the same streak of never missing a snap going at center before he broke his fibula in a game last October and was lost for the season.

HOME It's an Ohio homecoming for veteran receiver Brian Hartline, who played collegiately at Ohio State and played his GlenOak High School home games adjacent to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, about 50 miles south of Cleveland. The Browns added native Clevelander and Hartline's college teammate Donte Whitner via free agency in 2014.

MR. RELIABLE The Browns were willing to pay cornerback Tramon Williams $7 million this season even though he's 32 because he's been productive and durable. Williams has missed just one game in the last eight seasons and has played in 127 games over the last eight years. The only NFL player with more passes defensed over the last five years than Williams is his new Browns teammate, Joe Haden.

QUALITY COVERAGE Williams figures to start opposite Haden, replacing Buster Skrine in a secondary rotation that last season helped hold opposing quarterbacks to the league's lowest cumulative quarterback rating (74.1) and completion percentage (57.1) while ranking eighth in the NFL in passing yards allowed (224.5). Free safety Tashaun Gipson was leading the NFL in interceptions with six when he suffered a season-ending knee injury that didn't require surgery last November.

FOR KICKS Haden, who's been to back-to-back Pro Bowls, signed a big-money extension with the Browns last spring. He's become a fan favorite along the way, and the avid shoe collector opened a shoe store in downtown Cleveland last year.

BRIGHTER AND BETTER? The Browns unveiled a new logo featuring a brighter orange last spring and will also have new uniforms in 2015, with up to nine different jersey-pants color combinations involving white, brown and orange. The Browns haven't worn orange pants or jerseys since 2004.

THE LIST GROWS Josh McCown is in line to be the 23rd player to start a game at quarterback since the Browns returned to the NFL in 1999. Assuming he does, he'll join his brother, Luke, a 2004 Browns draft pick, on the list.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
WR	Dwayne Bowe	Kansas City
WR	Brian Hartline	Miami
TE	Rob Housler	Arizona
QB	Josh McCown	Tampa Bay
DL	Randy Starks	Miami
CB	Tramon Williams	Green Bay

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
TE	Jordan Cameron	Miami
QB	Brian Hoyer	Houston
NT	Ahtyba Rubin	Seattle
CB	Buster Skrine	NY. Jets

JOE HADEN, CB

2014 RESULTS (7-9)

Sept. 7	at Pittsburgh	L	27-30
Sept. 14	New Orleans	W	26-24
Sept. 21	Baltimore	L	21-23
Oct. 5	at Tennessee	W	29-28
Oct. 12	Pittsburgh	W	31-10
Oct. 19	at Jacksonville	L	6-24
Oct. 26	Oakland	W	23-13
Nov. 2	Tampa Bay	W	22-17
Nov. 6	at Cincinnati	W	24-3
Nov. 16	Houston	L	7-23
Nov. 23	at Atlanta	W	26-24
Nov. 30	at Buffalo	L	10-26
Dec. 7	Indianapolis	L	24-25
Dec. 14	Cincinnati	L	0-30
Dec. 21	at Carolina	L	13-17
Dec. 28	at Baltimore	L	10-20

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Brian Hoyer	438	242	3,326	12	13
Johnny Manziel	35	18	175	0	2
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Terrance West	171	673	3.9	4	
Isaiah Crowell	148	607	4.1	8	
Ben Tate	106	333	3.1	4	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Andrew Hawkins	63	824	13.1	2	
Miles Austin	47	568	12.1	2	
Taylor Gabriel	36	621	17.3	1	
Jordan Cameron	24	424	17.7	2	
Josh Gordon	24	303	12.6	0	

KICKING: Billy Cundiff, 22-29 FGs, 28-28 PATs, 94 points
TACKLES: Donte Whitner, 106; Craig Robertson, 99
SACKS: Paul Kruger, 11.0; Desmond Bryant, 5.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Tashaun Gipson, 6; Buster Skrine, 4

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	324.6	23	11
Rushing	108.0	17	9
Passing	216.6	20	9
Scoring	18.7	27	12
Third Down %	29.5	32	16
Punt Returns	6.7	28	14
Kick Returns	21.6	28	15
TEAM DEFENSE	**Stat**	**NFL Rank**	**AFC Rank**
Total	366.1	23	14
Rushing	141.6	32	16
Passing	224.5	8	6
Scoring	21.1	9	6
Interceptions	21	2	1
Sacks	31	27	16
Turnover Differential	+6	T9	4

showed flashes on the field.

There's age across the defense — Dansby, Whitner, Kruger, Williams, defensive end Desmond Bryant and new defensive end Randy Starks all have plenty of experience — but there are some young legs, too, in Haden, linebacker Chris Kirksey and rookie nose tackle Danny Shelton. The Browns considered Shelton, the No. 12 overall pick in the draft, the best player to immediately shore up a run defense that ranked last in the NFL a season ago. The Browns drafted two defensive linemen in the first three rounds with Bryant nearing 30 and former first-round pick Phil Taylor entering the final year of his contract.

The Browns will ask a lot of this defense, but they believe that the group is up to the challenge if the run defense improves. Some help from the offense on the scoreboard and in time of possession would be welcomed, but there are pieces to work with here.

ISAIAH CROWELL

SPECIALISTS The Browns had to make a change at placekicker last season when Billy Cundiff struggled. Garrett Hartley was a December addition who faced no real pressure kicks, and it's surprising the Browns didn't draft a kicker to give him some competition this summer. Young punter Spencer Lanning established himself last season. The Browns would like Lanning to punt less, but they're comfortable with his work. The punt-return game was a disaster last season, and Travis Benjamin is probably down to his last chance with the Browns in this training camp. Among the other candidates to return kicks and punts are rookie running back Duke Johnson, Gilbert and speedy second-year receiver Taylor Gabriel.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Browns won seven games last year, the most by the franchise since 2007. But the offense went totally flat late in the year, there were too many off-field incidents, and the season ended with a five-game losing streak. The 2015 team should be equipped with better leaders, better chemistry and better depth, but it's still fair to wonder who's going to make big plays and if this team will score enough touchdowns to be a legitimate playoff contender.

BROWNS IN THE DRAFT

A

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Danny Shelton**	**NT**	**6-2**	**339**	**Washington**
1.	Cameron Erving	OL	6-5	313	Florida State
2.	Nate Orchard	OLB	6-3	250	Utah
3.	Duke Johnson	RB	5-9	207	Miami (Fla.)
3.	Xavier Cooper	DT	6-3	293	Washington State
4.	Ibraheim Campbell	S	5-11	208	Northwestern
4.	Vince Mayle	WR	6-2	224	Washington State
6.	Charles Gaines	CB	5-10	180	Louisville
6.	Malcolm Johnson	TE	6-2	231	Mississippi State
6.	Randall Telfer	TE	6-4	250	USC
7.	Hayes Pullard	ILB	6-0	240	USC
7.	Ifo Ekpre-Olomu	CB	5-9	192	Oregon

The addition of Danny Shelton instead of a receiver is designed to shore up a run defense that ranked last in the NFL in 2014, and the addition of Cameron Erving adds depth this year at multiple positions and likely gives the Browns a center of the future. Duke Johnson, highly productive during his three years at Miami (Fla.), will compete for snaps and touches immediately. Nate Orchard should play on special teams and on passing downs, and seventh-rounder Ifo Ekpre-Olomu was a calculated gamble as he recovers from a torn ACL and should have a chance to contribute after a year of rehab and learning.

Crowell: Kyle Lanzer; Shelton: Steven Bisig

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
3 Lewis, Thad	QB	6-2	218	4	Duke	FA-Hou-15	FA-StL-10
2 Manziel, Johnny	QB	6-0	210	1	Texas A&M	D1b-14	D1b-Cle-14
13 McCown, Josh	QB	6-4	213	12	Sam Houston State	FA-TB-15	D3-Ari-02
9 Shaw, Connor	QB	6-1	210	1	South Carolina	FA-14	FA-Cle-14
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
34 Crowell, Isaiah	RB	5-11	225	1	Alabama State	FA-14	FA-Cle-14
20 Draughn, Shaun	RB	5-11	205	2	North Carolina	FA-14	FA-Was-11
28 West, Terrance	RB	5-10	225	1	Towson	D3b-14	D3b-Cle-14
41 Winston, Glenn	RB	6-2	220	1	Northwood	W-SF-14	FA-SF-14
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
82 Barnidge, Gary	TE	6-6	250	7	Louisville	FA-Car-13	D5-Car-08
89 Bates, Phil	WR	6-2	220	1	Ohio	FA-14	FA-Sea-12
11 Benjamin, Travis	WR	5-10	175	3	Miami	D4a-12	D4a-Cle-12
80 Bowe, Dwayne	WR	6-2	221	8	LSU	FA-KC-15	D1-KC-07
88 Cone, Kevin	WR	6-3	216	3	Georgia Tech	FA-14	FA-Atl-11
81 Dray, Jim	TE	6-5	255	5	Stanford	FA-Ari-14	D7-Ari-10
18 Gabriel, Taylor	WR	5-8	167	1	Abilene Christian	FA-14	FA-Cle-14
12 Gordon, Josh	WR	6-3	225	3	Baylor	SD2-12	SD2-Cle-12
83 Hartline, Brian	WR	6-2	200	6	Ohio State	FA-Mia-15	D4-Mia-09
16 Hawkins, Andrew	WR	5-7	180	4	Toledo	FA-Cin-14	FA-StL-11
84 Housler, Rob	TE	6-5	250	4	Florida Atlantic	FA-Ari-15	D3-Ari-11
15 Moore, Marlon	WR	6-0	190	5	Fresno State	FA-14	FA-Mia-10
13 Smith, Rodney	WR	6-5	220	2	Florida State	W-Min-14	FA-Min-13
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
63 Barton, Karim	OL	6-3	313	1	Morgan State	W-Phi-14	FA-Phi-14
75 Bitonio, Joel	OL	6-4	305	1	Nevada	D2-14	D2-Cle-14
61 Bowie, Michael	OL	6-5	320	2	Northeastern State	W-Sea-14	D7-Sea-13
77 Greco, John	OL	6-4	318	7	Toledo	T-StL-11	D3-StL-08
55 Mack, Alex	OL	6-4	311	6	California	D1-09	D1-Cle-09
79 McDonald, Andrew	OL	6-6	310	1	Indiana	W-Ind-14	FA-Mia-12
68 McDonald, Nick	OL	6-4	306	3	Grand Valley St.	W-SD-14	FA-GB-10
69 Painter, Vinston	OL	6-4	310	1	Virginia Tech	FA-14	D6-Den-13
72 Schwartz, Mitchell	OL	6-5	320	3	California	D2-12	D2-Cle-12
62 Seymour, Ryan	OL	6-4	305	1	Vanderbilt	W-SF-14	D7-Sea-13
73 Thomas, Joe	OL	6-6	312	8	Wisconsin	D1a-07	D1a-Cle-07
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
91 Barnett, Calvin	DL	6-2	317	1	Oklahoma State	FA-14	FA-Cle-14
95 Bryant, Armonty	DL	6-4	265	2	East Central	D7a-13	D7a-Cle-13
92 Bryant, Desmond	DL	6-6	310	6	Harvard	FA-Oak-13	FA-Oak-09
93 Hughes, John	DL	6-2	320	3	Cincinnati	D3-12	D3-Cle-12
67 Kitchen, Ishmaa'ily	DL	6-1	330	3	Kent State	W-Bal-12	FA-Bal-12
60 McDaniel, Jacobbi	DL	6-0	293	1	Florida State	FA-14	FA-Cle-14
66 Meder, Jamie	DL	6-3	295	1	Ashland	FA-14	FA-Bal-14
94 Starks, Randy	DL	6-3	305	11	Maryland	FA-Mia-15	D3-Ten-04
98 Taylor, Phil	DL	6-3	335	4	Baylor	D1-11	D1-Cle-11
78 Tupou, Christian	DL	6-4	305	2	USC	FA-14	FA-Chi-13
90 Winn, Billy	DL	6-4	300	3	Boise State	D6b-12	D6b-Cle-12
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
59 Carder, Tank	LB	6-2	235	3	TCU	W-Buf-12	D5-Buf-12
56 Dansby, Karlos	LB	6-3	251	11	Auburn	FA-Ari-14	D2-Ari-04
50 Eubanks, Darius	LB	6-2	222	2	Georgia Southern	FA-13	FA-Min-13
58 Kirksey, Chris	LB	6-2	235	1	Iowa	D3a-14	D3a-Cle-14
99 Kruger, Paul	LB	6-4	270	6	Utah	FA-Bal-13	D2-Bal-09
52 Martin, Eric	LB	6-2	250	2	Nebraska	W-NO-13	FA-NO-13
51 Mingo, Barkevious	LB	6-4	240	2	LSU	D1-13	D1-Cle-13
96 Pough, Keith	LB	6-2	236	1	Howard	FA-14	FA-Buf-13
53 Robertson, Craig	LB	6-1	234	3	North Texas	FA-11	FA-Cle-11
54 Solomon, Scott	LB	6-3	260	3	Rice	FA-14	D7-Ten-12
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
24 Bademosi, Johnson	DB	6-0	200	3	Stanford	FA-12	FA-Cle-12
26 Desir, Pierre	DB	6-2	206	1	Lindenwood	D4-14	D4-Cle-14
21 Gilbert, Justin	DB	6-0	202	1	Oklahoma State	D1a-14	D1a-Cle-14
39 Gipson, Tashaun	DB	5-11	205	3	Wyoming	FA-12	FA-Cle-12
23 Haden, Joe	DB	5-11	195	5	Florida	D1-10	D1-Cle-10
37 James, Kendall	DB	5-11	180	1	Maine	FA-14	D6-Min-14
42 Nelson, Robert	DB	5-9	175	1	Arizona State	FA-14	FA-Cle-14
33 Poyer, Jordan	DB	6-0	191	2	Oregon State	W-Phi-13	D7-Phi-13
35 Sonie, Varmah	DB	5-8	180	1	Northern Iowa	FA-15	FA-TB-14
31 Whitner, Donte	DB	5-10	208	9	Ohio State	FA-SF-14	D1-Buf-06
36 Williams, K'Waun	DB	5-9	183	1	Pittsburgh	FA-14	FA-Cle-14
22 Williams, Tramon	CB	5-11	191	8	Louisiana Tech	FA-GB-15	FA-Hou-06
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
6 Coons, Travis	K	6-1	200	1	Washington	FA-14	FA-Ten-14
10 Hartley, Garrett	K	5-9	200	7	Oklahoma	FA-14	FA-Den-08
47 Hughlett, Charley	LS	6-4	248	1	UCF	FA-14	FA-Dal-12
5 Lanning, Spencer	P	5-11	200	2	South Carolina	FA-13	FA-Chi-11
4 Spear, Carey	K	5-10	190	1	Vanderbilt	FA-14	FA-Phi-14
57 Yount, Christian	LS	6-1	250	4	UCLA	FA-11	FA-TB-11

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	80	Dwayne Bowe
	83	Brian Hartline
WR	16	Andrew Hawkins
	18	Taylor Gabriel
LT	73	Joe Thomas
	70	Vinston Painter
LG	75	Joel Bitonio
	61	Michael Bowie
C	55	Alex Mack
	68	Nick McDonald
RG	77	John Greco
	74	Cameron Irving (R)
RT	72	Mitchell Schwartz
	74	Cameron Erving (R)
TE	84	Rob Housler
	82	Gary Barnidge
QB	13	Josh McCown
	2	Johnny Manziel
FB	44	Malcolm Johnson (R)
	81	Jim Dray
RB	34	Isaiah Crowell
	28	Terrance West

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	94	Randy Starks
	95	Armonty Bryant
NT	71	Danny Shelton (R)
	67	Ishmaa'ily Kitchen
DE	92	Desmond Bryant
	98	Phil Taylor
OLB	99	Paul Kruger
	48	Nate Orchard (R)
ILB	56	Karlos Dansby
	59	Tank Carder
ILB	58	Chris Kirksey
	53	Craig Robertson
OLB	51	Barkevious Mingo
	54	Scott Solomon
CB	23	Joe Haden
	21	Justin Gilbert
CB	22	Tramon Williams
	36	K'Waun Williams
SS	31	Donte Whitner
	24	Johnson Bademosi
FS	39	Tashaun Gipson
	29	Ibraheim Campbell (R)

SPECIALISTS

K	10	Garrett Hartley
P	5	Spencer Lanning
KR	30	Duke Johnson (R)
PR	11	Travis Benjamin

SCOUTING THE BROWNS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP CLEVELAND "The Browns have lost because offensively they cannot convert on third downs, and defensively they have not been able to stop the run. ... Dwayne Bowe was signed from Kansas City, and Andrew Hawkins is a quality third or fourth receiver, but neither will require special game-planning. ... Left tackle Joe Thomas has not missed a snap since he was drafted in 2007. Cleveland's run game went down after center Alex Mack suffered a season-ending leg injury, so they picked Florida State's Cameron Erving to play right guard or right tackle in preparation for another injury or Mack's contract expiring. ... Running backs Terrance West and Isaiah Crowell flashed ability, but the question remains if one or the other can be a major difference-maker, or can third-round pick Duke Johnson become a factor?. ... Outside linebacker Paul Kruger bounced back from a subpar 2013 with 11 sacks, but Jabaal Sheard left for New England. ... Barkevious Mingo has been marginal, so they selected Utah's Nate Orchard in the second round. ... Karlos Dansby was adequate in the middle, and Donte Whitner provided some leadership in the back end with corner Joe Haden continuing to perform at a high level. ... Buster Skrine departed for the Jets, and Justin Gilbert's rookie season was one to forget, so corner is still a concern."

2015 SCHEDULE

Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	2014 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	326.6 (22)	327.2 (6)	17.7 (28)	25.1 (24)
2	Sept. 20	Tennessee	1:00	2-14	303.7 (29)	373.0 (27)	15.9 (30)	27.4 (30)
3	Sept. 27	Oakland	1:00	3-13	282.2 (32)	357.6 (21)	15.8 (31)	28.3 (32)
4	Oct. 4	at San Diego	4:05	9-7	341.6 (18)	338.3 (9)	21.8 (17)	21.8 (13)
5	Oct. 11	at Baltimore	1:00	10-6	364.9 (12)	336.9 (8)	25.6 (8)	18.9 (6)
6	Oct. 18	Denver	1:00	12-4	402.9 (4)	305.2 (3)	30.1 (2)	22.1 (16)
7	Oct. 25	at St. Louis	1:00	6-10	314.7 (28)	351.6 (17)	20.3 (20)	22.1 (16)
8	Nov. 1	Arizona	1:00	11-5	319.8 (24)	368.2 (24)	19.4 (24)	18.7 (5)
9	Nov. 5	at Cincinnati (Thu.)	8:25	10-5-1	348.0 (15)	359.3 (22)	22.8 (15)	21.5 (12)
10	Nov. 15	at Pittsburgh	1:00	11-5	411.1 (2)	353.4 (18)	27.3 (7)	23.0 (18)
11		BYE						
12	Nov. 30	Baltimore (Mon.)	8:30	10-6	364.9 (12)	336.9 (8)	25.6 (8)	18.9 (6)
13	Dec. 6	Cincinnati	1:00	10-5-1	348.0 (15)	359.3 (22)	22.8 (15)	21.5 (12)
14	Dec. 13	San Francisco	1:00	8-8	327.4 (20)	321.4 (5)	19.1 (25)	21.3 (10)
15	Dec. 20	at Seattle	4:05	12-4	375.8 (9)	267.1 (1)	24.6 (10)	15.9 (1)
16	Dec. 27	at Kansas City	1:00	9-7	318.8 (25)	330.5 (7)	22.1 (16)	17.6 (3)
17	Jan. 3	Pittsburgh	1:00	11-5	411.1 (2)	353.4 (18)	27.3 (7)	23.0 (18)

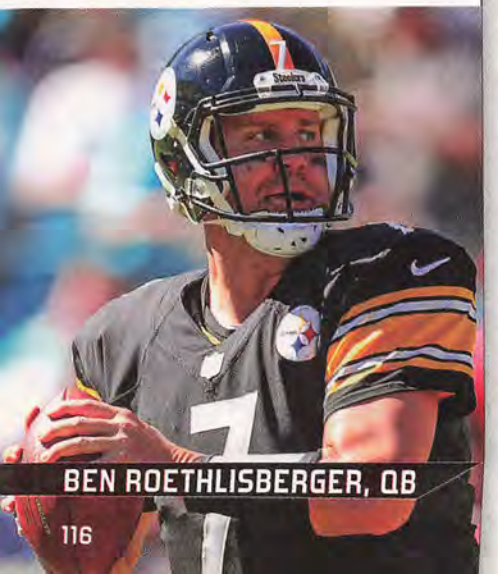
PITTSBURGH STEELERS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Mike Tomlin
RECORD WITH TEAM: 82–46
CAREER RECORD: 82–46
ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/DEFENSIVE LINE: John Mitchell
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Todd Haley
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Keith Butler
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Danny Smith
QUARTERBACKS: Randy Fichtner
RUNNING BACKS: James Saxon
WIDE RECEIVERS: Richard Mann
TIGHT ENDS: James Daniel
OFFENSIVE LINE: Mike Munchak
INSIDE LINEBACKERS: Jerry Olsavsky
OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS: Joey Porter
DEFENSIVE BACKS: Carnell Lake

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs AFC Champion



BEN ROETHLISBERGER, QB

1 AFC NORTH FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN: Daniel M. Rooney
PRESIDENT: Arthur J. Rooney II
VP: Arthur J. Rooney, Jr.
GENERAL MANAGER: Kevin Colbert
STADIUM: Heinz Field (65,050)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.steelers.com
TICKETS: 412-323-1200
TRAINING CAMP: Saint Vincent College (Latrobe, Pa.)

Building on an 11–5 season and an AFC North title won't be easy for the Pittsburgh Steelers. The offense is loaded and returns every starter from a unit that averaged 411.1 yards per game last season, second best in the NFL. But the defense is a serious work in progress after the Steelers managed just 33 sacks last season, their lowest total since 1989, and allowed 4.4 yards per carry.

The schedule doesn't do the team any favors, and by at least one measure it is the most difficult in the NFL. The Steelers' opponents combined for a .578 winning percentage last season, the highest in the league. What's more, the Steelers have to visit Seattle, San Diego, Kansas City and St. Louis after playing no games west of the Mississippi River in 2014. The Steelers parlayed a favorable schedule last season and a breakout campaign by the offense into their first division title since 2010. It will be much tougher for them to repeat as division champions, especially in the rugged AFC North.

OFFENSE Mike Tomlin has hardly tempered expectations for the unit that carried the Steelers last season. The ninth-year coach said at the NFL owners meetings in late March that the Steelers could have the best offense in the NFL this season because they "have the goods." He won't get any arguments in Pittsburgh or beyond the Steel City. The Steelers have arguably the best quarterback-running back-wide receiver trio in the NFL in Ben Roethlisberger, Le'Veon Bell and Antonio Brown. Roethlisberger threw for 4,952 yards last season and became the first player on franchise history to win a passing title (he shared the honor with Drew Brees). Roethlisberger, who turned 33 in March, is seemingly getting better with age. And the Steelers backed up general manager Kevin Colbert's assertion that Roethlisberger's best playing days are still ahead of him by signing Big Ben to a five-year contract extension that could be worth as much as $108 million.

Roethlisberger has reigned in the sandlot style that defined him earlier in his career in large part because the players around him are better. Brown led the NFL in catches (129) and receiving yards (1,698) last season and plays bigger than his listed size of 5'10", 186 pounds because of his ability to separate and make contested catches in traffic. If Brown's production dips this season, it could be because the Steelers have an emerging star in second-year wideout Martavis Bryant as well as Markus Wheaton, who made a significant leap in his second season after playing sparingly as a rookie.

As good as Roethlisberger and Brown were last season, Bell won the Steelers' MVP Award — as voted on by the players — and for good reason. The second-year man rushed for 1,361 yards and led all NFL running backs with 854 receiving yards. There is not a better all-around back than Bell, who also excels at picking up blitzing linebackers. The Steelers have to hope that DeAngelo Williams can do a credible job of filling in for Bell, who is out at the start of the season because of an NFL suspension.

The offensive line returns intact and is still young but also experienced. Maurkice Pouncey re-established himself as one of the top centers in the NFL last season after coming back from a major knee injury. Right guard David DeCastro is the Steelers' best pulling guard since perennial Pro Bowler Alan Faneca.

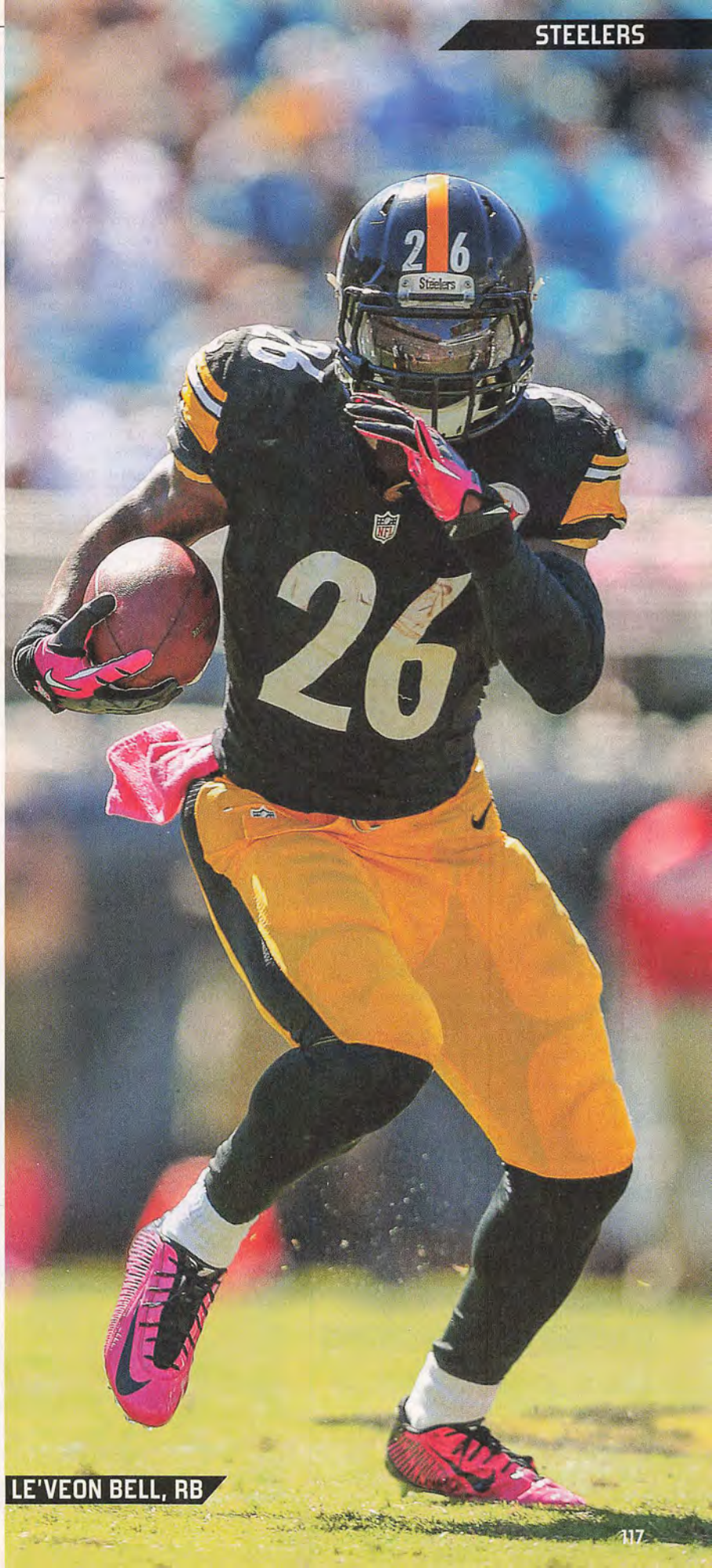
DEFENSE It wasn't that long ago that questions about whether the Steelers' defense had gotten too old were as much an autumn ritual in Western Pennsylvania as the leaves changing colors. Not anymore. The average age of the Steelers' projected starters on defense is 26.5. That number dips if rookie Bud Dupree, the team's first-round pick, beats out Arthur Moats at left outside linebacker.

The Steelers have a new defensive coordinator with former linebackers coach Keith Butler taking over for Dick LeBeau. Butler won't stray from the LeBeau's core philosophy of shutting down the run first and foremost or the Steelers' base 3-4 defense. He will try to simplify the defense to accommodate the youth he has inherited, and Butler has said that the Steelers have to become more opportunistic. They forced more than two turnovers in a game just twice last season, and they have 41 takeaways in their last two seasons. To put that into perspective, consider that the Steelers had 35 takeaways in 2010 alone, the last time they made the Super Bowl.

The linebackers playing to their pedigree could go a long way toward the Steelers fielding the kind of defense that can complement the offense. They should, at some point, have former first-round picks starting at all four linebacker spots. Two of those players in particular

Roethlisberger, Bell: Tom DiPace; Fan: Bruce Schwartzman

NEW ERA



LE'VEON BELL, RB

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

A SHORT ABSENCE Coach Mike Tomlin says Antonio Brown probably has "OCD," and he means it as a compliment given the All-Pro wide receiver's maniacal work ethic. That trait may have played a part in Brown showing up for the voluntary offseason program after skipping the first week of it in late April. Brown has told the Steelers he wants a new contract. But the three-time Pro Bowler did not stay away from the team's practice facility for long.

HEADED FOR A STANDOFF? Brown still has three years left on the five-year, $42.5 million extension he signed in 2012. The Steelers aren't likely to budge from their policy of signing non-quarterbacks to a new deal only when those players are going into the final year of their contract. Another big season by Brown could compel them to make an exception — or lead to a contract impasse in 2016.

SNAP COUNT FOR HARRISON Joey Porter raised some eyebrows when the Steelers outside linebackers coach said the team planned to limit James Harrison to around 25 snaps per game this season. Porter's proclamation is more than just a nod to Harrison turning 37 in May. The Steelers want to give 2013 first-round pick Jarvis Jones every opportunity to develop at right outside linebacker.

STANDING PAT The Steelers gave former undrafted rookie Josh Harris a vote of confidence when they did not draft at least one running back for the first time since 2007. The Steelers' recent draft history and a suspension that Le'Veon Bell will serve at the start of the season strongly suggested that the Steelers would add to their stable of running backs. Harris, who was signed from the practice squad last November following the release of LeGarrette Blount, will challenge veteran DeAngelo Williams for carries while Bell is out.

PANNING OUT The Steelers went local when they got younger at tight end. Fifth-round draft pick Jesse James starred at South Allegheny High School, just outside of Pittsburgh, before playing three seasons at Penn State. James will have to buck recent history as he tries to establish himself as starting tight end Heath Miller's future successor. Just one Steelers' fifth-round pick since Tomlin became the head coach has developed into an eventual starter, and that was cornerback William Gay in 2007.

DAYS TO REMEMBER Wide receiver Sammie Coates was one of the big winners of the 2015 NFL draft. A day after the Steelers drafted the Auburn speedster in the third round, Coates' girlfriend accepted his wedding proposal. Coates should have a chance to contribute early with the Steelers, and his draft slot augers well for his future. Hines Ward, Mike Wallace, Emmanuel Sanders and Markus Wheaton are four of the last five wide receivers the Steelers have previously drafted in the third round. Of that group, only Wheaton has failed to make at least one Pro Bowl.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
RB	DeAngelo Williams	Carolina

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
DE	Brett Keisel	Free Agent
CB	Brice McCain	Miami
S	Troy Polamalu	Retired
CB	Ike Taylor	Retired
OLB	Jason Worilds	Retired

2014 RESULTS (11-5)

Sept. 7	Cleveland	W	30-27
Sept. 11	at Baltimore	L	6-26
Sept. 21	at Carolina	W	37-19
Sept. 28	Tampa Bay	L	24-27
Oct. 5	at Jacksonville	W	17-9
Oct. 12	at Cleveland	L	10-31
Oct. 20	Houston	W	30-23
Oct. 26	Indianapolis	W	51-34
Nov. 2	Baltimore	W	43-23
Nov. 9	at N.Y. Jets	L	13-20
Nov. 17	at Tennessee	W	27-24
Nov. 30	New Orleans	L	32-35
Dec. 7	at Cincinnati	W	42-21
Dec. 14	at Atlanta	W	27-20
Dec. 21	Kansas City	W	20-12
Dec. 28	Cincinnati	W	27-17
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 3	Baltimore	L	17-30

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Ben Roethlisberger	608	408	4,952	32	9
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Le'Veon Bell	290	1,361	4.7	8	
LeGarrette Blount	65	266	4.1	2	
Ben Roethlisberger	33	27	0.8	0	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Antonio Brown	129	1,698	13.2	13	
Le'Veon Bell	83	854	10.3	3	
Heath Miller	66	761	11.5	3	
Markus Wheaton	53	644	12.2	2	
Martavis Bryant	26	549	21.1	8	
Lance Moore	14	198	14.1	2	

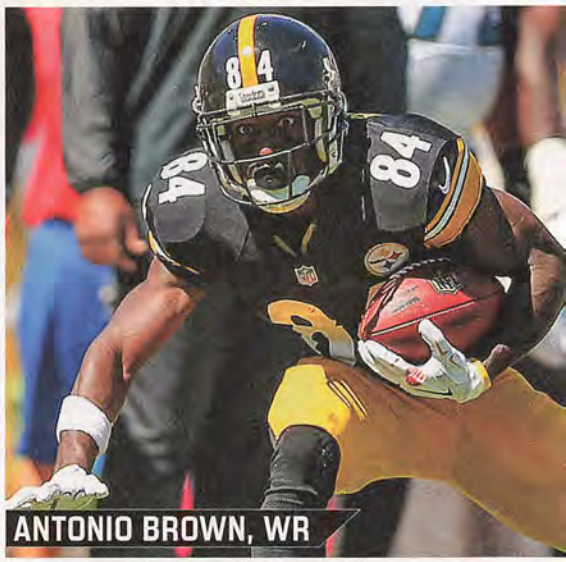
KICKING: Shaun Suisham, 29-32 FGs, 45-45 PATs, 132 points
TACKLES: Lawrence Timmons, 132; Mike Mitchell, 7671
SACKS: Jason Worilds, 7.5; Cameron Heyward, 7.5
INTERCEPTIONS: William Gay, 3; Brice McCain, 3

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	411.1	2	1
Rushing	109.5	16	8
Passing	301.6	2	2
Scoring	27.2	7	4
Third Down %	44.7	5	2
Punt Returns	10.0	11	4
Kick Returns	21.7	T26	14

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	353.4	18	11
Rushing	100.3	6	4
Passing	253.1	27	16
Scoring	23.0	18	10
Interceptions	11	T25	T10
Sacks	33	26	12
Turnover Differential	0	T16	T8

are key. Right outside linebacker Jarvis Jones has to make a big jump in his third season after missing most of 2014 because of a dislocated wrist. Ryan Shazier may be the most likely candidate to break out after a high-ankle sprain and normal rookie growing pains limited the 15th overall pick of the 2014 draft last season. Shazier's speed and ability to play in space make him more valuable than ever with the Steelers playing their nickel defense more than 50 percent of the time. He is a playmaker, and the competition at inside linebacker, the Steelers' deepest position, should only bring out the best in Shazier.


ANTONIO BROWN, WR

The secondary has gotten younger, and third-year man Shamarko Thomas gets the first crack at replacing the iconic Troy Polamalu at strong safety. Defensive backs coach Carnell Lake has said that the Steelers' two safety positions are interchangeable, but does the team have a player who can cover ample ground on the back end of their defense? Thomas and starting free safety Mike Mitchell are big hitters who support the run. There are questions about how well both can cover.

SPECIALISTS Shaun Suisham occasionally stubs his toe on field goals he should make but is otherwise as reliable as they come. Punter Brad Wing has to become more consistent in his second season, and the former LSU All-American will be challenged after having training camp all to himself last season. The Steelers have to get more out of kickoff returns after averaging only 21.7 yards per return last season. They drafted Dri Archer in the third round in 2014 to give them a jolt in the return game. He fared so poorly that he lost his job as the team's primary kickoff returner before the midway point of the season. Archer, the fastest player on the team, has to emerge this season or he is in danger of becoming a bust.

FINAL ANALYSIS The offense may have to carry the Steelers until a defense in transition comes together. The offense should be a tour de force if it stays relatively healthy, though the Steelers have to start faster. They managed just 19 points on 16 opening drives last season, and scoring first could help take some pressure off the defense.

Few people expected the Steelers to win 11 games last season, and it will be hard to duplicate that number in 2015. Ten victories could be enough to repeat as AFC North champions if the Steelers win at least four division games.

STEELERS IN THE DRAFT

B+

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Bud Dupree**	**OLB**	**6-4**	**264**	**Kentucky**
3.	Senquez Golson	CB	5-9	176	Ole Miss
3.	Sammie Coates	WR	6-1	212	Auburn
4.	Doran Grant	CB	5-10	200	Ohio State
5.	Jesse James	TE	6-7	261	Penn State
6.	L.T. Walton	DE	6-5	319	Central Michigan
6.	Anthony Chickillo	DE	6-3	267	Miami (Fla.)
7.	Gerod Holliman	S	6-0	218	Louisville

The Steelers predictably focused on defense given their myriad needs on that side of the ball. Need and best player available made a blissful convergence when Bud Dupree was still available after the first 21 picks of the draft. He is a physical specimen who crushed it at the NFL Combine. Dupree has experience dropping into coverage but needs to refine his pass-rushing skills. Who better for him to learn from than outside linebackers coach Joey Porter and veteran James Harrison? Senquez Golson and Doran Grant don't have ideal size for cornerbacks, but both have excellent ball skills, which the Steelers coveted. They combined for 15 interceptions last season — only one more than Gerod Holliman, who won the Jim Thorpe Award last season as the best defensive back in college football. Sammie Coates might have been a bit of a reach in the third round, but he could yield high rewards.

Brown: Tom DiPace; Dupree: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
2 Boyd, Tajh	QB	6-1	222	1	Clemson	FA-15	D6-NYJ-14
5 Gradkowski, Bruce	QB	6-1	220	9	Toledo	FA-Cin-13	D6-TB-06
3 Jones, Landry	QB	6-3	221	2	Oklahoma	D4b-13	D4b-Pit-13
7 Roethlisberger, Ben	QB	6-5	241	11	Miami (OH)	D1-04	D1-Pit-04
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
26 Bell, Le'Veon	RB	6-1	244	2	Michigan State	D2-13	D2-Pit-13
40 Harris, Josh	RB	5-11	210	1	Wake Forest	FA-14	FA-Pit-14
46 Johnson, Will	FB	6-2	238	3	West Virginia	FA-12	FA-Pit-12
45 Nix, Roosevelt	FB	5-11	260	1	Kent State	FA-15	FA-Atl-14
34 Williams, DeAngelo	RB	5-9	215	9	Memphis	FA-Car-15	D1-Car-06
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
13 Archer, Dri	WR	5-8	173	1	Kent State	D3-14	D3-Pit-14
87 Blanchflower, Rob	TE	6-4	256	1	Massachusetts	D7-14	D7-Pit-14
84 Brown, Antonio	WR	5-10	186	5	Central Michigan	D6b-10	D6b-Pit-10
15 Brown, Justin	WR	6-3	209	1	Oklahoma	D6a-13	D6a-Pit-13
10 Bryant, Martavis	WR	6-4	211	1	Clemson	D4-14	D4-Pit-14
19 Chancellor, Brelan	WR	5-8	188	1	North Texas	FA-15	FA-SD-14
80 Egnew, Michael	TE	6-5	260	2	Missouri	FA-15	D3-Mia-12
18 Goodwin, C.J.	WR	6-3	190	1	California (PA)	FA-14	FA-Pit-14
85 Heyward-Bey, Darrius	WR	6-2	219	6	Maryland	FA-Ind-14	D1-Oak-09
83 Miller, Heath	TE	6-5	256	10	Virginia	D1-05	D1-Pit-05
89 Spaeth, Matt	TE	6-7	260	8	Minnesota	FA-Chi-13	D3-Pit-07
15 Washington, L'Damian	WR	6-4	200	1	Missouri	FA-15	FA-Dal-14
11 Wheaton, Markus	WR	5-11	182	2	Oregon State	D3-13	D3-Pit-13
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
76 Adams, Mike	T	6-7	323	3	Ohio State	D2-12	D2-Pit-12
68 Beachum, Kelvin	T/G	6-3	303	3	SMU	D7d-12	D7d-Pit-12
66 DeCastro, David	G	6-5	316	3	Stanford	D1-12	D1-Pit-12
73 Foster, Ramon	G	6-6	325	6	Tennessee	FA-09	FA-Pit-09
77 Gilbert, Marcus	T	6-6	330	4	Florida	D2-11	D2-Pit-11
74 Hubbard, Chris	G	6-4	286	1	UAB	FA-13	FA-Pit-13
53 Pouncey, Maurkice	C	6-4	304	5	Florida	D1-10	D1-Pit-10
64 Van Dyk, Mitchell	T	6-7	299	1	Portland State	FA-15	D7-StL-14
78 Villanueva, Alejandro	OL	6-9	277	1	Army	FA-14	FA-Phi-14
72 Wallace, Cody	C/G	6-4	300	5	Texas A&M	FA-13	D4-SF-08
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
69 Conrath, Matt	DE	6-7	306	2	Virginia	FA-15	FA-StL-12
71 Geathers, Clifton	DE	6-8	325	5	South Carolina	FA-14	D6-Cle-10
79 Hemer, Ethan	DE	6-6	285	1	Wisconsin	FA-14	FA-Pit-14
97 Heyward, Cameron	DE	6-5	288	4	Ohio State	D1-11	D1-Pit-11
65 Kruger, Joe	DL	6-6	287	1	Utah	FA-14	D7-Phi-13
62 McCullers, Daniel	DL	6-7	352	1	Tennessee	D6b-14	D6b-Pit-14
90 McLendon, Steve	NT	6-4	320	5	Troy	FA-09	FA-Pit-09
96 Thomas, Cam	DT	6-4	330	5	North Carolina	FA-SD-14	D5a-SD-10
91 Tuitt, Stephon	DE	6-5	303	1	Notre Dame	D2-14	D2-Pit-14
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
57 Garvin, Terence	LB	6-3	221	2	West Virginia	FA-13	FA-Pit-13
48 Green, Shayon	LB	6-1	255	0	Miami	FA-15	FA-Pit-15
92 Harrison, James	LB	6-0	275	12	Kent State	FA-14	FA-Pit-02
44 Jones, Howard	LB	6-4	238	1	Shepherd	FA-14	FA-Pit-14
95 Jones, Jarvis	LB	6-2	245	2	Georgia	D1-13	D1-Pit-13
54 Lemon, Shawn	LB	6-2	250	0	Akron	FA-15	FA-Pit-15
55 Moats, Arthur	LB	6-2	250	5	James Madison	FA-Buf-14	D6a-Buf-10
50 Shazier, Ryan	LB	6-1	237	1	Ohio State	D1-14	D1-Pit-14
51 Spence, Sean	LB	5-11	231	3	Miami	D3-12	D3-Pit-12
94 Timmons, Lawrence	LB	6-1	234	8	Florida State	D1-07	D1-Pit-07
98 Williams, Vince	LB	6-1	250	2	Florida State	D6b-13	D6b-Pit-13
56 Zumwalt, Jordan	LB	6-4	235	1	UCLA	D6a-14	D6a-Pit-14
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
28 Allen, Cortez	CB	6-1	196	4	The Citadel	D4-11	D4-Pit-11
20 Allen, Will	S	6-1	200	11	Ohio State	FA-13	D4-TB-04
41 Blake, Antwon	CB	5-9	198	3	UTEP	W-Jac-13	FA-Jac-12
42 Dangerfield, Jordan	S	5-11	200	1	Towson	FA-15	FA-Buf-13
33 Darby, Alden	S	5-10	192	1	Arizona State	FA-15	FA-SD-14
30 Fogg, Kevin	CB	5-10	185	1	Liberty	FA-14	FA-Mia-14
22 Gay, William	CB	5-10	190	8	Louisville	FA-Ari-13	D5b-Pit-07
21 Golden, Robert	S	5-11	202	3	Arizona	FA-12	FA-Pit-12
37 Lewis, Isaiah	S	5-10	211	1	Michigan State	FA-15	FA-Cin-14
23 Mitchell, Mike	S	6-0	210	6	Ohio	FA-Car-14	D2-Oak-09
29 Thomas, Shamarko	S	5-9	217	2	Syracuse	D4a-13	D4a-Pit-13
35 Ventrone, Ross	S	5-8	195	2	Villanova	FA-13	FA-NE-10
39 Webb, B.W.	CB	5-11	190	2	William & Mary	W-Dal-14	D4-Dal-13
38 Wild, Ian	S	6-0	205	1	Mercyhurst	FA-15	FA-Buf-12
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
4 Berry, Jordan	P	6-5	210	0	Eastern Kentucky	FA-15	FA-Pit-15
6 Suisham, Shaun	K	6-0	200	10	Bowling Green	FA-10	FA-Pit-05
48 Hartson, Brandon	LS	6-2	238	1	Houston	W-KC-15	FA-Chi-13
8 Leone, Richie	P	6-3	214	1	Houston	FA-15	FA-Bal-14
60 Warren, Greg	LS	6-3	252	10	North Carolina	FA-05	FA-Pit-05
9 Wing, Brad	P	6-3	205	1	LSU	FA-14	FA-Phi-13

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	84	Antonio Brown
	88	Darrius Heyward-Bey
WR	11	Markus Wheaton
	14	Sammie Coates (R)
WR	10	Martavis Bryant
	14	Sammie Coates (R)
LT	68	Kelvin Beachum
	76	Mike Adams
LG	73	Ramon Foster
	74	Chris Hubbard
C	53	Maurkice Pouncey
	72	Cody Wallace
RG	66	David DeCastro
	72	Cody Wallace
RT	77	Marcus Gilbert
	76	Mike Adams
TE	83	Heath Miller
	89	Matt Spaeth
QB	7	Ben Roethlisberger
	5	Bruce Gradkowski
RB	26	Le'Veon Bell
	34	DeAngelo Williams

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	91	Stephon Tuitt
	71	Clifton Geathers
NT	90	Steve McLendon
	62	Daniel McCullers
DE	97	Cameron Heyward
	96	Cam Thomas
OLB	55	Arthur Moats
	48	Bud Dupree (R)
ILB	50	Ryan Shazier
	51	Sean Spence
ILB	94	Lawrence Timmons
	98	Vince Williams
OLB	95	Jarvis Jones
	92	James Harrison
CB	22	William Gay
	41	Antwon Blake
CB	28	Cortez Allen
	27	Senquez Golson (R)
SS	29	Shamarko Thomas
	20	Will Allen
FS	23	Mike Mitchell
	21	Robert Golden

SPECIALISTS

K	6	Shaun Suisham
P	9	Brad Wing
KR	13	Dri Archer
PR	84	Antonio Brown

SCOUTING THE STEELERS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP PITTSBURGH "There is good news and bad news in the Steel City. The offense clicked to the tune of 411.1 yards per game, but the defense has aged and is under construction with a coordinator not named Dick LeBeau. ... Big Ben will be expected to carry the team while the defense is reconfigured. This team can have a winning record and even make the playoffs, but they are not good enough to make a deep run. ... Antonio Brown might spend the offseason squawking about his current deal that has three years left, but he has become one of the most exciting players in the entire league. ... Tight end Heath Miller has been underappreciated his entire career and has now accumulated over 500 catches. ... The offensive line held up last year because Pittsburgh actually ran the ball some in 2014. ... Running back Le'Veon Bell had a breakout campaign. He is a superstar in the making, but he will miss the 2015 opener after he and LeGarrette Blount were cited for marijuana last summer. ... Defensively, Pittsburgh finished 18th in total yards allowed and scoring defense mainly because of their struggles to pressure the QB and create turnovers. ... The secondary will be completely remade in 2015 with Troy Polamalu and Ike Taylor both retiring. Major help is needed at corner and safety."

2015 SCHEDULE

					2014 NFL RANKINGS			
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 10	at New England (Thu.)	8:30	12-4	365.5 (11)	344.1 (13)	29.3 (4)	19.6 (8)
2	Sept. 20	San Francisco	1:00	8-8	327.4 (20)	321.4 (5)	19.1 (25)	21.3 (10)
3	Sept. 27	at St. Louis	1:00	6-10	314.7 (28)	351.6 (17)	20.3 (20)	22.1 (16)
4	Oct. 1	Baltimore (Thu.)	8:25	10-6	364.9 (12)	336.9 (8)	25.6 (8)	18.9 (6)
5	Oct. 12	at San Diego (Mon.)	8:30	9-7	341.6 (18)	338.3 (9)	21.8 (17)	21.8 (13)
6	Oct. 18	Arizona	1:00	11-5	319.8 (24)	368.2 (24)	19.4 (24)	18.7 (5)
7	Oct. 25	at Kansas City	1:00	9-7	318.8 (25)	330.5 (7)	22.1 (16)	17.6 (3)
8	Nov. 1	Cincinnati	1:00	10-5-1	348.0 (15)	359.3 (22)	22.8 (15)	21.5 (12)
9	Nov. 8	Oakland	1:00	3-13	282.2 (32)	357.6 (21)	15.8 (31)	28.3 (32)
10	Nov. 15	Cleveland	1:00	7-9	324.6 (23)	366.1 (23)	18.7 (27)	21.1 (9)
11		BYE						
12	Nov. 29	at Seattle	4:25	12-4	375.8 (9)	267.1 (1)	24.6 (10)	15.9 (1)
13	Dec. 6	Indianapolis	8:30	11-5	406.6 (3)	342.7 (11)	28.6 (6)	23.1 (19)
14	Dec. 13	at Cincinnati	1:00	10-5-1	348.0 (15)	359.3 (22)	22.8 (15)	21.5 (12)
15	Dec. 20	Denver	4:25	12-4	402.9 (4)	305.2 (3)	30.1 (2)	22.1 (16)
16	Dec. 27	at Baltimore	8:30	10-6	364.9 (12)	336.9 (8)	25.6 (8)	18.9 (6)
17	Jan. 3	at Cleveland	1:00	7-9	324.6 (23)	366.1 (23)	18.7 (27)	21.1 (9)

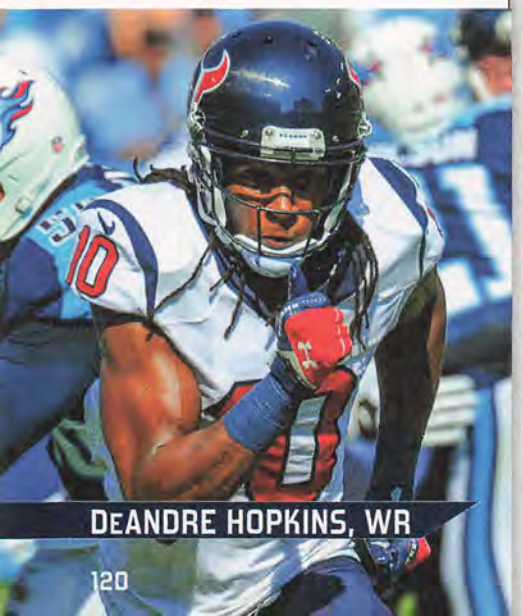
HOUSTON TEXANS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH/OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Bill O'Brien
RECORD WITH TEAM: 9–7
CAREER RECORD: 9–7
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Romeo Crennel
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Bob Ligashesky
QUARTERBACKS: George Godsey
RUNNING BACKS: Charles London
WIDE RECEIVERS: Stan Hixon
TIGHT ENDS: John Perry
OFFENSIVE LINE: Mike Devlin
DEFENSIVE LINE: Paul Pasqualoni
LINEBACKERS: Mike Vrabel
SECONDARY: John Butler

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs



DEANDRE HOPKINS, WR

2 AFC SOUTH FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

FOUNDER/CHAIRMAN/CEO: Robert C. McNair
VICE CHAIRMAN: D. Cal McNair
EXECUTIVE VP/GENERAL MANAGER: Rick Smith
VP OF FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION: Chris Olsen
STADIUM: NRG Stadium (71,500)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.houstontexans.com
TICKETS: 832-667-2390
TRAINING CAMP: Houston Methodist Training Center (Houston, Texas)

Coach Bill O'Brien knows he can't expect the kind of improvement the Texans made in his first season, but it doesn't mean they can't challenge Indianapolis for the AFC South title and compete for a wild-card berth. Despite playing four quarterbacks and starting three, the Texans improved by an NFL-best seven victories to 9–7 and missed the playoffs on the last Sunday of the season. They added 13 veteran free agents and seven draft choices in an effort to increase firepower on both sides of the ball. They let go of the best player in franchise history, receiver Andre Johnson, and it better not backfire. They could have as many as eight new starters, including five on a defense that improved dramatically during a 4–1 finish that teased a football-crazed city that hasn't had a team advance as far as the AFC Championship Game since the Oilers after the 1979 season.

OFFENSE If the Texans won nine games with three different starting quarterbacks, imagine what they're capable of accomplishing if they develop stability at the most important position.

Ryan Fitzpatrick (Jets) and Case Keenum (Rams) were traded, and they took eight of the nine victories with them. In the first two starts of his career, Ryan Mallett was 1–1 but underwent season-ending surgery on a torn pectoral muscle. His competition is Brian Hoyer, a journeyman who went 7–6 as a starter in Cleveland last season. Like Mallett, Hoyer played for O'Brien and offensive coordinator George Godsey in New England. Hoyer, the most mobile of the group, has just 17 games of starting experience, but that's 15 more than Mallett. Last year's fourth-round pick, cannon-armed Tom Savage, is still watching and learning.

Whoever wins the job will miss Johnson, who was released and signed with AFC South rival Indianapolis after 12 exceptional seasons in Houston. DeAndre Hopkins emerged as a bona fide No. 1 go-to guy in 2014 with terrific ball skills and excellent hands. Opposite Hopkins, the Texans might take a receiver-by-committee approach. They have more candidates than the Republican party in third-round pick Jaelen Strong, veteran free agents Cecil Shorts and Nate Washington and holdovers Keshawn Martin and Damaris Johnson.

The coaches also need more production from the tight ends. Starter Garrett Graham and backups C.J. Fiedorowicz and Ryan Griffin combined for 32 catches. All have their strengths and weaknesses. Solving the quarterback issue might help the tight ends' productivity.

O'Brien and Godsey like to run the ball as much as possible. Arian Foster, who battled a hamstring injury, and rookie Alfred Blue combined for almost 1,800 yards rushing and scored 16 touchdowns. The coaches need to do a better job of managing Foster's touches. They used him as a receiver a lot, including in the slot, because he has such superb hands; but that exposed him to more punishment. Blue, a between-the-tackles runner entering his second season, should be able to take some of that load off Foster.

New offensive line coach Mike Devlin earned an impressive reputation with the Jets as someone who makes his players more physical and technically sound. As a group, the line played well, but individually, only right guard Brandon Brooks could pound his chest. He's a mauler with nifty feet, and he's improved every season. With long-time center Chris Myers having been released, Ben Jones moves from left guard. Xavier Su'a-Filo, last year's second-round pick, should replace Jones. They need to develop depth they can count on, especially in the interior of the line.

DEFENSE Did the defense finally figure out coordinator Romeo Crennel's complicated system down the stretch, or was the impressive performance on that side of the ball an aberration? During their 4–1 stretch drive, they ranked fourth in points allowed, second in total defense and first in third-down conversions. Overall, the Texans set a franchise record by forcing an NFL-high 34 turnovers one season after they recorded 11, the fewest since the merger in 1970. Can the defense keep up that pace, especially if it has four or five new starters?

The most famous new face belongs to mammoth nose tackle Vince Wilfork, coming off another Super Bowl victory with New England. He plans to settle in next to J.J. Watt. Wilfork is supposed to tie up two blockers and stuff the run before turning over the pass rush to younger players such as Watt, the two-time Defensive Player of the Year.

Crennel used Watt in inventive ways — moving him up and down the line — but he needs help from the infirmary. Outside linebacker Jadeveon Clowney, who missed much of his rookie season with a knee injury, is coming along nicely from microfracture surgery, but he's got a long way to go to be ready for the opener against Kansas City. When he gets back on the

Hopkins, Watt: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports; Cheerleader: AP

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

WILFORK IS SMOKIN' Nose tackle Vince Wilfork loves to barbeque. After he signed a two-year, $9 million contract with the Texans, a Houston company that makes barbecue pits presented him with a new custom-made grill as large as a compact automobile. Wilfork's new pit would be ideal for tailgating at NRG Stadium on Sundays, but he'll be busy.

ROAD TO RECOVERY Guard David Quessenberry, who missed last season while undergoing treatment for lymphoma, is an inspiring story. His cancer is in remission, and he's competing for a place on the team entering his third season. His hair has grown back. His weight is back up to 306. Depth in the line is an issue. "I used to think lifting weights was a pain in the butt, but now I love every single minute of it — it's awesome," Quessenberry says.

MEGA-WATT Last season, J.J. Watt became the first defensive lineman or linebacker to score five touchdowns in a season since 1948. Watt, the first unanimous NFL Defensive Player of the Year, had three catches and two returns for touchdowns.

FAMILY REUNION New quarterback Brian Hoyer has been reunited with quarterback Ryan Mallett, coach Bill O'Brien and offensive coordinator George Godsey. They know each other well, because they all were part of the 2011 New England Patriots team that lost its second Super Bowl to the Giants. Hoyer was in his third season behind Tom Brady. Mallett was a rookie third-round pick. O'Brien was the offensive coordinator. Godsey was an offensive assistant who worked with the quarterbacks.

PIANO MAN Running back Jonathan Grimes, a music major at William & Mary, is a terrific piano player who also sings, writes and records. He began taking piano lessons when he turned 7.

FIGHTING HUNGER Growing up in South Carolina, receiver DeAndre Hopkins says his family seldom had enough food on the table, so he's doing his best to make sure others don't suffer the way he did. Entering his third season, Hopkins is a spokesman for two organizations that fight hunger: the Houston Food Bank and Souper Bowl of Caring.

WHEREFORE ART THOU? Defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel has a sister named Juliet. Crennel, an avid photographer, collects Muhammad Ali memorabilia. Crennel's nickname is "Rac" because of his initials — Romeo A. Crennel, although the "A" doesn't stand for anything.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
FS	Steve Brown	N.Y. Giants
QB	Brian Hoyer	Cleveland
FS	Rahim Moore	Denver
WR	Cecil Shorts	Jacksonville
WR	Nate Washington	Tennessee
NT	Vince Wilfork	New England

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
QB	Ryan Fitzpatrick	N.Y. Jets
WR	Andre Johnson	Indianapolis
FS	Kendrick Lewis	Baltimore
S	Danieal Manning	Free Agent
C	Chris Myers	Free Agent
OLB	Brooks Reed	Atlanta

J.J. WATT, DE

2014 RESULTS (9-7)

Sept. 7	Washington	W	17-6
Sept. 14	at Oakland	W	30-14
Sept. 21	at N.Y. Giants	L	17-30
Sept. 28	Buffalo	W	23-17
Oct. 5	at Dallas (ot)	L	17-20
Oct. 9	Indianapolis	L	28-33
Oct. 20	at Pittsburgh	L	23-30
Oct. 26	at Tennessee	W	30-16
Nov. 2	Philadelphia	L	21-31
Nov. 16	at Cleveland	W	23-7
Nov. 23	Cincinnati	L	13-22
Nov. 30	Tennessee	W	45-21
Dec. 7	at Jacksonville	W	27-13
Dec. 14	at Indianapolis	L	10-17
Dec. 21	Baltimore	W	25-13
Dec. 28	Jacksonville	W	23-17

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Ryan Fitzpatrick	312	197	2,483	17	8
Case Keenum	77	45	435	2	2
Ryan Mallett	75	41	400	2	2
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Arian Foster	260	1,246	4.8	8	
Alfred Blue	169	528	3.1	2	
Ryan Fitzpatrick	50	184	3.7	2	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Andre Johnson	85	936	11.0	3	
DeAndre Hopkins	76	1,210	15.9	6	
Arian Foster	38	327	8.6	5	
Damaris Johnson	31	331	10.7	1	

KICKING: Randy Bullock, 30-35 FGs, 40-40 PATs, 130 points
TACKLES: Kendrick Lewis, 84; J.J. Watt, 78
SACKS: J.J. Watt, 20.5; Whitney Mercilus, 5.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Three players tied with 3

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	344.6	17	8
Rushing	135.1	5	2
Passing	209.5	24	12
Scoring	23.2	14	7
Third Down %	38.7	22	11
Punt Returns	6.1	31	16
Kick Returns	21.1	29	16
TEAM DEFENSE	**Stat**	**NFL Rank**	**AFC Rank**
Total	348.2	16	10
Rushing	105.1	10	6
Passing	243.1	21	13
Scoring	19.2	7	4
Interceptions	20	T3	T2
Sacks	38	19	11
Turnover Differential	+12	T2	T1

field, no one has a clue about how effective he can be or if he can stay healthy.

Inside linebacker Brian Cushing played most of last season, but he wasn't the same three-down player he was before he underwent two knee surgeries. The coaches are hoping he's regained his speed and agility.

It would elevate the defensive performance if outside linebacker Whitney Mercilus improved on last season's career-low five sacks. He's a weak-side rusher who must be more productive. He's moving to the other side to take on tight ends. He sets the edge well and can drop into coverage, but he has to be more physical at the point of attack.

ARIAN FOSTER, RB

There's been a revolving door at safety but not at cornerback, where Johnathan Joseph and Kareem Jackson are together for a fifth consecutive season. They play hard against the run, cover well and are seasoned veterans. Kevin Johnson, the first-round pick, should be the nickel corner.

One of the biggest free-agent acquisitions was free safety Rahim Moore. The coaches wanted more of a centerfielder, and Moore had four interceptions for Denver last season. He's got range and brains and needs to become the captain of the secondary in place of Kendrick Lewis, who bolted for Baltimore after Moore was signed.

SPECIALISTS There was nothing special about the Texans' special teams last season, though kicker Randy Bullock (30-of-35 field goals, 130 points) and punter Shane Lechler (46.3-yard gross, 38.7 net) aren't the problem. O'Brien is threatening to use starters if coverage and returns don't improve. In a reserve role at Philadelphia, Chris Polk returned only 11 kickoffs but averaged 30.9 yards, including a 102-yard touchdown. Ideally, he makes the roster in the backfield and becomes a weapon on kickoff returns. If not, receivers Damaris Johnson and Martin can compete for the return job. Neither deserves it. The only thing the Texans can count on is long snapper Jon Weeks, who does an outstanding job.

FINAL ANALYSIS Missing the playoffs on the last day of the season means fans and media — as well as owner Bob McNair — are expecting the Texans to make the playoffs. It's a reasonable expectation, but it won't be realistic if they suffer injuries where they lack quality depth. This is a well-coached team with a lot of talent and a favorable schedule that has a good chance to improve on last season's nine victories.

TEXANS IN THE DRAFT

B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Kevin Johnson	CB	6-0	188	Wake Forest
2.	Benardrick McKinney	ILB	6-4	246	Mississippi State
3.	Jaelen Strong	WR	6-2	217	Arizona State
5.	Keith Mumphery	WR	6-0	215	Michigan State
6.	Reshard Cliett	LB	6-2	235	South Florida
6.	Christian Covington	DT	6-2	289	Rice
7.	Kenny Hilliard	RB	6-0	226	LSU

There's no pressure on the rookies to start, even though Kevin Johnson, Benardrick McKinney and Jaelen Strong are expected to make solid contributions. Johnson should be the first corner off the bench and play outside, where his man-coverage skills make him a natural fit. Once he learns the system, McKinney might be able to beat out Akeem Dent. McKinney is being developed to play on first and second down until he learns to drop into coverage. The Texans traded up to get Strong in the third round, and they'll be disappointed if he isn't the first receiver off the bench. He had two remarkably productive years at Arizona State, catching 157 passes for 2,287 yards and 17 touchdowns. Christian Covington, who missed most of his junior year at Rice with a knee injury but declared early for the NFL Draft anyway, will be used in passing situations. Kenny Hilliard is a rugged back who carried the ball only 302 times in four seasons at LSU.

Foster: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports; Johnson: AP

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
7 Hoyer, Brian	QB	6-2	215	6	Michigan State	FA-Cle-15	FA-NE-09
15 Mallett, Ryan	QB	6-6	245	4	Arkansas	T-NE-14	D3b-NE-11
3 Savage, Tom	QB	6-4	228	1	Pittsburgh	D4-14	D4-Hou-14
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
28 Blue, Alfred	RB	6-2	223	1	LSU	D6b-14	D6b-Hou-14
23 Foster, Arian	RB	6-1	227	6	Tennessee	FA-09	FA-Hou-09
41 Grimes, Jonathan	RB	5-10	209	2	William & Mary	FA-13	FA-Hou-12
32 Polk, Chris	RB	5-11	222	3	Washington	FA-Phi-15	FA-Phi-12
45 Prosch, Jay	FB	6-1	256	1	Auburn	D6c-14	D6c-Hou-14
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
16 Bonner, Alan	WR	5-10	191	2	Jacksonville St.	D6b-13	D6b-Hou-13
2 Davis, Jace	WR	6-1	206	1	No. Colorado	FA-14	FA-Bal-14
81 Denham, Anthony	TE	6-4	235	1	Utah	FA-14	FA-Hou-14
87 Fiedorowicz, C.J.	TE	6-5	265	1	Iowa	D3a-14	D3a-Hou-14
88 Graham, Garrett	TE	6-3	243	5	Wisconsin	D4b-10	D4b-Hou-10
84 Griffin, Ryan	TE	6-6	254	2	Connecticut	D6d-13	D6d-Hou-13
10 Hopkins, DeAndre	WR	6-1	218	2	Clemson	D1-13	D1-Hou-13
13 Johnson, Damaris	WR	5-8	175	3	Tulsa	W-Phi-14	FA-Phi-12
19 Labhart, Travis	WR	5-9	182	1	Texas A&M	FA-14	FA-Hou-14
82 Martin, Keshawn	WR	5-11	194	3	Michigan State	D4b-12	D4b-Hou-12
18 Shorts III, Cecil	WR	6-0	202	4	Mount Union	FA-Jac-15	D4a-Jac-11
85 Washington, Nate	WR	6-1	183	10	Tiffin	FA-Ten-15	FA-Pit-05
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
70 Adams, Jeff	T	6-7	305	1	Columbia	W-Ten-14	FA-Dal-12
79 Brooks, Brandon	G	6-5	335	3	Miami (OH)	D3b-12	D3b-Hou-12
76 Brown, Duane	T	6-4	303	7	Virginia Tech	D1-08	D1-Hou-08
74 Clabo, Tyson	T	6-6	315	9	Wake Forest	FA-14	FA-Den-04
72 Feiler, Matt	T	6-6	330	1	Bloomsburg	FA-14	FA-Hou-14
78 Ferentz, James	C	6-2	285	1	Iowa	FA-14	FA-Hou-14
60 Jones, Ben	G/C	6-3	308	3	Georgia	D4a-12	D4a-Hou-12
62 Kupper, Alex	G	6-3	299	1	Louisville	FA-13	FA-Hou-13
72 Newton, Derek	T	6-6	313	4	Arkansas State	D7a-11	D7a-Hou-11
77 Quessenberry, David	G	6-5	306	2	San Jose State	D6a-13	D6a-Hou-13
71 Su'a-Filo, Xavier	G	6-4	307	1	UCLA	D2-14	D2-Hou-14
67 White, Cody	G/C	6-3	303	3	Illinois State	FA-12	FA-Hou-12
72 Witzmann, Bryan	T	6-7	311	1	South Dakota St.	FA-14	FA-Hou-14
64 Yeatman, Will	T	6-6	315	4	Maryland	FA-14	FA-NE-11
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
93 Crick, Jared	DE	6-4	285	3	Nebraska	D4c-12	D4c-Hou-12
94 Finau, Tevita	DT	6-4	288	1	Utah	FA-14	FA-Ari-12
92 Nix III, Louis	NT	6-2	331	1	Notre Dame	D3b-14	D3b-Hou-14
97 Pagan, Jeoffrey	DE	6-3	310	1	Alabama	D6a-14	D6a-Hou-14
99 Watt, J.J.	DE	6-5	289	4	Wisconsin	D1-11	D1-Hou-11
75 Wilfork, Vince	DL	6-2	325	11	Miami	FA-NE-15	D1a-NE-04
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
65 Ankrah, Jason	OLB	6-3	262	1	Nebraska	FA-14	FA-Hou-14
53 Bullough, Max	ILB	6-3	249	1	Michigan State	FA-14	FA-Hou-14
90 Clowney, Jadeveon	OLB	6-5	266	1	South Carolina	D1-14	D1-Hou-14
56 Cushing, Brian	ILB	6-3	249	6	USC	D1-09	D1-Hou-09
50 Dent, Akeem	ILB	6-1	239	4	Georgia	T-Atl-14	D3-Atl-11
59 Mercilus, Whitney	OLB	6-4	258	3	Illinois	D1-12	D1-Hou-12
54 Mohamed, Mike	ILB	6-3	238	3	California	FA-13	D6-Den-11
51 Simon, John	OLB	6-1	252	2	Ohio State	FA-14	D4-Bal-13
52 Tarpinian, Jeff	ILB	6-3	240	3	Iowa	FA-13	FA-NE-11
57 Tuggle, Justin	ILB	6-3	249	2	Kansas State	FA-13	FA-Hou-13
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
39 Ballentine, Lonnie	S	6-3	215	1	Memphis	D7b-14	D7b-Hou-14
34 Bouye, A.J.	CB	6-0	191	2	UCF	FA-13	FA-Hou-13
33 Brown, Stevie	S	5-11	215	5	Michigan	FA-NYG-15	D7-Oak-10
29 Hal, Andre	CB	5-10	188	1	Vanderbilt	D7a-14	D7a-Hou-14
25 Jackson, Kareem	CB	5-10	188	5	Alabama	D1-10	D1-Hou-10
31 James, Charles	CB	5-9	179	2	Charleston So.	FA-14	FA-NYG-13
24 Joseph, Johnathan	CB	5-11	188	9	South Carolina	FA-Cin-11	D1-Cin-06
26 Moore, Rahim	S	6-1	195	4	UCLA	FA-Den-15	D2a-Den-11
26 Morris, Darryl	CB	5-10	188	2	Texas State	W-SF-14	FA-SF-13
27 Parks, Terrance	S	6-2	218	1	Florida State	FA-14	FA-KC-12
35 Pleasant, Eddie	SS	5-10	210	2	Oregon	FA-12	FA-Hou-12
20 Rolle, Jumal	CB	6-0	188	1	Catawba	FA-14	FA-Buf-13
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
4 Bullock, Randy	K	5-9	206	3	Texas A&M	D5-12	D5-Hou-12
9 Lechler, Shane	P	6-2	237	15	Texas A&M	FA-Oak-13	D5-Oak-00
46 Weeks, Jon	LS	5-10	246	5	Baylor	FA-10	FA-Hou-10

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	10	DeAndre Hopkins
	85	Nate Washington
WR	18	Cecil Shorts
	11	Jaelen Strong (R)
LT	76	Duane Brown
	70	Jeff Adams
LG	71	Xavier Su'a-Filo
	64	Will Yeatman
C	60	Ben Jones
	67	Cody White
RG	79	Brandon Brooks
	77	David Quessenberry
RT	72	Derek Newton
	74	Tyson Clabo
TE	88	Garrett Graham
	87	C.J. Fiedorowicz
QB	15	Ryan Mallett
	7	Brian Hoyer
FB	45	Jay Prosch
	38	Kenny Hilliard (R)
RB	23	Arian Foster
	28	Alfred Blue

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	99	J.J. Watt
	95	Christian Covington (R)
NT	75	Vince Wilfork
	92	Louis Nix
DE	93	Jared Crick
	97	Jeoffrey Pagan
OLB	90	Jadeveon Clowney
	65	Jason Ankrah
ILB	50	Akeem Dent
	54	Mike Mohamed
ILB	56	Brian Cushing
	55	Benardrick McKinney (R)
OLB	59	Whitney Mercilus
	51	John Simon
CB	25	Kareem Jackson
	30	Kevin Johnson (R)
CB	24	Johnathan Joseph
	34	A.J. Bouye
SS	35	Eddie Pleasent
	33	Stevie Brown
FS	26	Rahim Moore
	39	Lonnie Ballentine

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Randy Bullock
P	9	Shane Lechler
KR	32	Chris Polk
PR	13	Damaris Johnson

SCOUTING THE TEXANS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP HOUSTON "In his first season, Bill O'Brien managed a difficult QB situation and rode the Texans' opportunistic defense to nine wins. ... Maybe the greatest Texan in club history, Andre Johnson departed in free agency. DeAndre Hopkins took over as the No. 1 receiver last fall, and he will get support from newly acquired Cecil Shorts. ... Arian Foster's injury history is always a concern, but Alfred Blue showed the ability to be a competent stand-in if something happens long-term. ... The offensive line did enough to help Houston rank fifth in rushing and tied for fourth in fewest sacks allowed. Tackle Duane Brown has proven himself to be a quality NFL player. ... J.J. Watt is truly a special player and arguably the top player in the league. ... Jadeveon Clowney had microfracture surgery, so his effectiveness and long-term impact will be questioned until he can get on the field and prove himself. They got nothing from him last year. That's tough. ... The Texans signed Vince Wilfork to be part of their rotation and train last year's third-round pick Louis Nix. ... Linebacker Brian Cushing continues to play at a high level, but Whitney Mercilus has been just OK in his first three years. ... Corner Kareem Jackson was re-signed before he hit the market, and Johnathan Joseph has been a solid addition for GM Rick Smith."

2015 SCHEDULE

Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	2014 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	Kansas City	1:00	9-7	318.8 (25)	330.5 (7)	22.1 (16)	17.6 (3)
2	Sept. 20	at Carolina	1:00	7-8-1	346.7 (16)	339.8 (10)	21.2 (19)	23.4 (21)
3	Sept. 27	Tampa Bay	1:00	2-14	292.0 (30)	368.9 (25)	17.3 (29)	25.6 (25)
4	Oct. 4	at Atlanta	1:00	6-10	378.2 (8)	398.3 (32)	23.8 (12)	26.1 (27)
5	Oct. 8	Indianapolis (Thu.)	8:25	11-5	406.6 (3)	342.7 (11)	28.6 (6)	23.1 (19)
6	Oct. 18	at Jacksonville	1:00	3-13	289.6 (31)	370.8 (26)	15.6 (32)	25.8 (26)
7	Oct. 25	at Miami	1:00	8-8	350.1 (14)	343.4 (12)	24.3 (11)	23.3 (20)
8	Nov. 1	Tennessee	1:00	2-14	303.7 (29)	373.0 (27)	15.9 (30)	27.4 (30)
9		BYE						
10	Nov. 16	at Cincinnati (Mon.)	8:30	10-5-1	348.0 (15)	359.3 (22)	22.8 (15)	21.5 (12)
11	Nov. 22	N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	326.6 (22)	327.2 (6)	17.7 (28)	25.1 (24)
12	Nov. 29	New Orleans	1:00	7-9	411.4 (1)	384.0 (31)	25.1 (9)	26.5 (28)
13	Dec. 6	at Buffalo	1:00	9-7	318.5 (26)	312.2 (4)	21.4 (18)	18.1 (4)
14	Dec. 13	New England	1:00	12-4	365.5 (11)	344.1 (13)	29.3 (4)	19.6 (8)
15	Dec. 20	at Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	406.6 (3)	342.7 (11)	28.6 (6)	23.1 (19)
16	Dec. 27	at Tennessee	1:00	2-14	303.7 (29)	373.0 (27)	15.9 (30)	27.4 (30)
17	Jan. 3	Jacksonville	1:00	3-13	289.6 (31)	370.8 (26)	15.6 (32)	25.8 (26)

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Chuck Pagano
RECORD WITH TEAM: 33–15
CAREER RECORD: 33–15
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Pep Hamilton
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Greg Manusky
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Tom McMahon
QUARTERBACKS: Clyde Christensen
RUNNING BACKS: Charlie Williams
WIDE RECEIVERS: Jim Hostler
TIGHT ENDS: Alfredo Roberts
OFFENSIVE LINE: Joe Gilbert/Hal Hunter
DEFENSIVE LINE: Gary Emanuel
LINEBACKERS: Jeff FitzGerald
OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS: Brad White
SECONDARY: Mike Gillhamer
SAFETIES: Roy Anderson

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2010	10	Playoffs
2011	2	
2012	11	Playoffs
2013	11	Playoffs
2014	11	Playoffs

Playoffs

T.Y. HILTON, WR

1 AFC SOUTH FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/CEO James Irsay
GENERAL MANAGER: Ryan Grigson
VP OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS: Jimmy Raye III
DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION: Mike Bluem
STADIUM: Lucas Oil Stadium (62,421)
SURFACE: FieldTurf
WEBSITE: www.colts.com
TICKETS: 317-297-7000
TRAINING CAMP: Anderson University (Anderson, Ind.)

Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay emerged from a demoralized locker room at Gillette Stadium after a 45–7 AFC Championship Game loss to the New England Patriots and tried to offer reassurance.

"We're close," he said, despite evidence to the contrary. Heads shook in disbelief. Close to what?

It's not just last January that sticks in the scarred psyches of this franchise and fans. It's the previous January at Foxborough, Mass., as well, when the Colts were run over 43–22 by the Patriots in an AFC Divisional playoff rout.

The Colts have won 11 regular-season games in three consecutive years, and they've advanced one round farther in each of the past two postseasons. But they've been unable to survive the Patriots games. The defending Super Bowl champions visit Indianapolis again in 2015. If the Colts are going to take that next step, they must dethrone the champs, not just on Oct. 18 but in January.

OFFENSE Quarterback Andrew Luck is coming off his best Pro Bowl season yet after leading the NFL with 40 touchdown passes. He's got what is probably the best supporting cast in his four seasons with the additions of running back Frank Gore and wide receiver Andre Johnson and the first-round draft selection of wide receiver Phillip Dorsett to go with Pro Bowl wide receiver T.Y. Hilton and the tight end tandem of Dwayne Allen and Coby Fleener.

Luck spoke at the outset of offseason training activities about improving red-zone efficiency and cutting down on turnovers. He had 22 of the team's 31 giveaways, almost double his number from the previous season. The Colts ranked 12th in touchdowns scored when driving inside the opponent's 20-yard line. While 42-year-old kicker Adam Vinatieri is still a reliable three-point option, the NFL's No. 6 scoring offense — at 28.6 points per game — could have put up more.

This next offense could be one of the league's best, presuming Luck (100 sacks taken in three seasons) has time to spread the ball around to a receiving corps that improved despite 14-year star Reggie Wayne not being re-signed. Hilton and Dorsett are speed burners. Johnson, the Houston Texans' all-time receiving leader, is determined to prove he has something left. The 33-year-old target provides size and experience. Gore, 32, is also motivated to show there's still life left in his legs. Johnson and Gore came to Indianapolis because they thought the Colts gave them the best shot at an elusive Super Bowl ring. And they link that objective to Luck.

DEFENSE Four losses to the Patriots during the three-year era of general manager Ryan Grigson and head coach Chuck Pagano have been by an average of 29 points. New England has scored 189 points, 47.3 per game, in those blowouts. So while the Colts own the AFC South Division and have progressed to near the top of the league in status, they have to figure out a way to stop or least reduce points scored by the Patriots.

Outside linebacker Trent Cole arrived via free agency from Philadelphia and should team with franchise all-time sack leader Robert Mathis to form one of the best league's best pass-rush tandems. That is, if Mathis can get healthy. He missed all of last season due to a four-game suspension and Achilles tendon tear. The Colts' 3-4 pass rush could still be formidable if Mathis needs time to find his stride. Outside linebacker Jonathan Newsome led the team with 6.5 sacks as a rookie, and outside linebacker Erik Walden had six.

But the problem in playoffs past started with run defense. The Patriots ran for 177 yards and three scores last time, after 234 yards and six rushing TDs the year before. Defensive end Kendall Langford comes over from St. Louis and should be a solid run stuffer. Defensive tackle Arthur Jones needs to stay healthy — he started just three of nine games due to an ankle injury. The Colts traded up in the fifth round to draft Stanford nose tackle David Parry, evidence that the team isn't sold on Josh Chapman and/or Montori Hughes as the only run-plugging answer. Stanford defensive end Henry Anderson was drafted in the third round and was considered by many to be a steal, given his high-motor ability to get consistent backfield penetration in college.

Inside linebacker Nate Irving was signed away from Denver to provide a stronger run-stopping option inside. While D'Qwell Jackson and Jerrell Freeman are tackling machines, Freeman is better suited for pass defense, blitzing and using his speed to run down ball carriers. The cornerback trio of Vontae Davis, Greg Toler and nickel back Darius Butler returns, but safety is a concern. Mike Adams, 34, made his first Pro Bowl last season. Dwight Lowery comes over from Atlanta, and hard-hitting Clayton Geathers was drafted in the fourth round.

Hilton, Luck: Tom DiPace; Cheerleader: AP

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

DATING HIMSELF Andrew Luck was excited when the Colts signed wide receiver Andre Johnson. The quarterback grew up in Houston admiring the Texans' star. "I said, 'Wow, Andre, sweet,'" Luck says. "I was in middle school when he was drafted by the Texans."

COFFEE ON ME Mike Adams, a 34-year-old safety, was asked about mentoring young players in the secondary. "First of all, I'm going to have some Krispy Kreme donuts," he said. "Second, coffee, for anybody that wants any, let me know. I'm taking orders."

STANFORD & THE 'U' The Colts like guys from Stanford and the University of Miami. The drafting of Cardinal defensive end Henry Anderson and nose tackle David Parry reunites them with Stanford teammates in Luck, tight end Coby Fleener and wide receiver Griff Whalen. Andre Johnson and Frank Gore are from the "U," as is rookie wide receiver Phillip Dorsett and first-year tight end Erik Swoope.

MISSING REGGIE The team's decision to not re-sign 14-year star wide receiver Reggie Wayne disappointed the fan base, but "Reg" handled it with class. He took out a full-page advertisement in *The Indianapolis Star* to thank fans for their support and wouldn't say anything negative about the Colts. Wayne is the franchise leader in regular-season games played (211) and wins (143). He would like to play another season or two elsewhere.

MOVE-IN DAD Luck offered an amusing observation about his father, Oliver, staying with him when his parents visited for Mother's Day. "I'm trying to figure out a way to kick him out so we'll see how that works," Luck said, laughing. "It's hard to tell your old man that he has to leave your condo."

HALL OF FAME SON Wide receiver Duron Carter, son of NFL Hall of Famer Cris Carter, joined the Colts from the Canadian Football League. He says the group of receivers is the best he's ever been around, which begs the question: Where will he fit into the mix? "Get in where I fit in," he says. He suggests that Luck, who threw an NFL-best and career-high 40 TD passes last season, could have as many as 50 next season.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
OLB	Trent Cole	Philadelphia
WR	Andre Johnson	Houston
RB	Frank Gore	San Francisco
OG	Todd Herremans	Philadelphia
ILB	Nate Irving	Denver
DE	Kendall Langford	St. Louis
S	Dwight Lowery	Atlanta

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
RB	Ahmad Bradshaw	Free Agent
S	Sergio Brown	Jacksonville
KR	Josh Cribbs	Free Agent
DT	Ricky Jean-Francois	Washington
S	LaRon Landry	Free Agent
WR	Hakeem Nicks	Tennessee
RB	Trent Richardson	Oakland
DE	Cory Redding	Arizona
C	A.Q. Shipley	Arizona
WR	Reggie Wayne	Free Agent

ANDREW LUCK, QB

2014 RESULTS (11-5)

Sept. 7	at Denver	L	24-31
Sept. 15	Philadelphia	L	27-30
Sept. 21	at Jacksonville	W	44-17
Sept. 28	Tennessee	W	41-17
Oct. 5	Baltimore	W	20-13
Oct. 9	at Houston	W	33-28
Oct. 19	Cincinnati	W	27-0
Oct. 26	at Pittsburgh	L	34-51
Nov. 3	at N.Y. Giants	W	40-24
Nov. 16	New England	L	20-42
Nov. 23	Jacksonville	W	23-3
Nov. 30	Washington	W	49-27
Dec. 7	at Cleveland	W	25-24
Dec. 14	Houston	W	17-10
Dec. 21	at Dallas	L	7-42
Dec. 28	at Tennessee	W	27-10
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 4	Cincinnati	W	26-10
Jan. 11	at Denver	W	24-13
Jan. 18	at New England	L	7-45

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Andrew Luck	616	380	4,761	40	16
RUSHING	**ATT**		**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Trent Richardson	159		519	3.3	3
Ahmad Bradshaw	90		425	4.7	2
Dan Herron	78		351	4.5	1
Andrew Luck	64		273	4.3	3
RECEIVING	**REC**		**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
T.Y. Hilton	82		1,345	16.4	7
Reggie Wayne	64		779	12.2	2
Coby Fleener	51		774	15.2	8
Ahmad Bradshaw	38		300	7.9	6
Hakeem Nicks	38		405	10.7	4

KICKING: Adam Vinatieri, 30-31 FGs, 50-50 PATs, 140 points
TACKLES: D'Qwell Jackson, 138; Jerrell Freeman, 95
SACKS: Jonathan Newsome, 6.5; Erik Walden, 6.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Mike Adams, 5; Vontae Davis 4

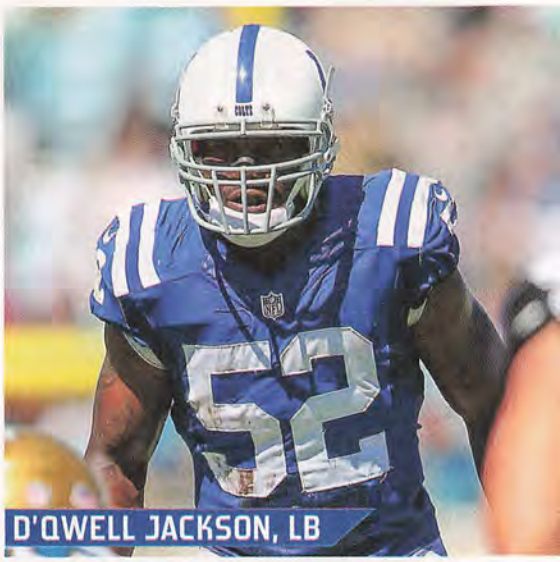
2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	406.6	3	2
Rushing	100.8	22	12
Passing	305.9	1	1
Scoring	28.6	6	3
Third Down %	41.0	13	5
Punt Returns	6.9	T26	12
Kick Returns	28.0	T2	T2

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	342.7	11	7
Rushing	113.4	18	8
Passing	229.3	12	7
Scoring	23.1	19	11
Interceptions	12	T21	T8
Sacks	41	T9	T6
Turnover Differential	-5	T22	T11

So the defense still has questions entering training camp.

SPECIALISTS Vinatieri, punter/kickoff specialist/holder Pat McAfee and long snapper Matt Overton might be the league's best triumvirate. Vinatieri made 30-of-31 field goals. He didn't miss until the season finale. McAfee boomed an NFL-best 70 touchbacks (on kickoffs) and was third in net punting average at 42.8 yards. Overton is almost always on the mark with his snaps. Dorsett is expected to get a crack at returning. The Colts were tied for second in kickoff returns but 26th in punt returns. Josh Cribbs was released a day after Dorsett was drafted. Dorsett impressed the Colts with his Hilton-like speed — he ran a 4.33 40-yard dash at the NFL Scouting Combine, then 4.27 and 4.29 at his pro day.


D'QWELL JACKSON, LB

FINAL ANALYSIS If Irsay is to be proven prophetic and the Colts have enough to exorcise Patriots demons, a lot has to go their way. Home-field advantage throughout the playoffs would be a start. Good health, including Mathis and along the offensive line, would be key. It's possible but unlikely that everything will go according to plan. It almost never does.

The offense should be undeniably potent. There's just too much talent, and Luck is a star on the rise. The Colts will pile up points. The question is defense. It must be more like the team that stopped Peyton Manning and Denver on the road in the playoffs to have any chance against the Patriots. Granted, Manning was playing on one leg due to an injury, but the Colts didn't allow a touchdown after the first quarter. That game has Irsay believing his team is close.

Irsay spoke after the draft about how he expected the Colts to win at least two Super Bowls during the Luck era. The 55-year-old owner is haunted by the regret of a Manning era that produced only one Super Bowl win. Irsay has said that the Colts should have won more with their previous franchise quarterback. Irsay's expectation is to win back-to-back titles at some point. He considers such an accomplishment a testament to greatness. The next round of Patriots games awaits. Maybe the Colts have what it takes, finally, to be great. That's a big maybe.

DRAFT 2015 *COLTS* IN THE DRAFT

C

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Phillip Dorsett**	**WR**	**5-10**	**185**	**Miami**
3.	D'Joun Smith	CB	5-11	190	Florida Atlantic
3.	Henry Anderson	DE	6-6	294	Stanford
4.	Clayton Geathers	S	6-2	208	UCF
5.	David Parry	DT	6-2	300	Stanford
6.	Josh Robinson	RB	5-8	217	Mississippi State
6.	Amarlo Herrera	ILB	6-1	244	Georgia
7.	Denzelle Good	OT	6-5	339	Mars Hill

Phillip Dorsett was a somewhat surprising selection, with receivers T.Y. Hilton, Andre Johnson, Donte Moncrief and Duron Carter already on the roster. Dorsett's speed (4.27 40 at Miami's pro day) was enticing enough for the Colts to reject a trade offer and stick with the pick. The Colts traded out of the second round but still got who they wanted in D'Joun Smith. The deal enabled them to move up 19 spots to take Clayton Geathers, who is raw but should get his chance to play some at safety. Analysts liked the Henry Anderson selection, suggesting he might actually be the best player in this class. The team traded up to grab David Parry out of Stanford. Josh Robinson is reunited with running back Vick Ballard, who was his Mississippi State mentor in 2011. Amarlo Herrera and Denzelle Good look like developmental players who could end up on the practice squad.

Jackson: Tom DiPace; Dorsett: AP

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
8	Hasselbeck, Matt	QB	6-4	235	16	Boston College	FA-Ten-13	D6-GB-98
12	Luck, Andrew	QB	6-4	240	3	Stanford	D1-12	D1-Ind-12
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
33	Ballard, Vick	RB	5-10	226	3	Mississippi State	D5-12	D5-Ind-12
23	Gore, Frank	RB	5-9	217	10	Miami	FA-SF-15	D3a-SF-05
36	Herron, Daniel	RB	5-10	212	2	Ohio State	FA-13	D6-Cin-12
37	Tipton, Zurlon	RB	6-0	231	1	Central Michigan	FA-14	FA-Ind-14
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
83	Allen, Dwayne	TE	6-3	265	3	Clemson	D3-12	D3-Ind-12
14	Brown, Vincent	WR	5-11	190	4	San Diego State	FA-Oak-15	D3-SD-11
9	Carter, Duron	WR	6-5	205	0	Coffeyville	FA-15	FA-Ind-15
84	Doyle, Jack	TE	6-6	267	2	Western Kentucky	W-Ten-13	FA-Ten-13
80	Fleener, Coby	TE	6-6	251	3	Stanford	D2-12	D2-Ind-12
13	Hilton, T.Y.	WR	5-9	178	3	FIU	D3-12	D3-Ind-12
81	Johnson, Andre	WR	6-3	230	12	Miami	FA-Hou-15	D1-Hou-03
85	Lankford, Ryan	WR	5-11	163	1	Illinois	FA-14	FA-Mia-14
11	Lenz, Josh	WR	6-0	194	1	Iowa State	FA-13	FA-Chi-13
10	Moncrief, Donte	WR	6-2	221	1	Ole Miss	D3-14	D3-Ind-14
86	Swoope, Erik	TE	6-5	246	1	Miami	FA-14	FA-Ind-14
17	Whalen, Griff	WR	5-11	190	3	Stanford	FA-14	FA-Ind-12
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
65	Arkin, David	G	6-5	307	4	Missouri State	FA-14	D4Dal-11
74	Castonzo, Anthony	T	6-7	311	4	Boston College	D1-11	D1-Ind-11
67	Cox, Demarco	T	6-8	294	0	Georgia Tech	FA-15	FA-Ind-15
78	Cherilus, Gosder	T	6-7	316	7	Boston College	FA-Det-13	D1-Det-08
72	Harrison, Jonotthan	C	6-4	308	1	Florida	FA-14	FA-Ind-14
63	Heenan, Ben	G	6-4	315	0	Saskatchewan	FA-15	FA-Ind-15
79	Herremans, Todd	G/T	6-6	321	10	Saginaw Valley St.	FA-Phi-15	D4b-Phi-05
62	Holmes, Khaled	C/G	6-3	309	2	USC	D4-13	D4-Ind-13
64	Hoover, Tyler	T	6-7	297	1	Michigan State	FA-14	FA-Ind-14
68	John, Ulrick	T	6-5	300	1	Georgia State	D7-14	D7-Ind-14
60	Louis, Lance	G	6-3	330	5	San Diego State	FA-14	D7-Chi-09
75	Mewhort, Jack	T/G	6-6	308	1	Ohio State	D2-14	D2-Ind-14
76	Reitz, Joe	G	6-7	325	4	Western Michigan	FA-10	FA-Bal-08
66	Thomas, Donald	G	6-4	303	7	Connecticut	FA-NE-13	D6-Mia-08
69	Thornton, Hugh	G	6-3	336	2	Illinois	D3-13	D3-Ind-13
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
96	Chapman, Josh	NT	6-0	340	3	Alabama	D5-12	D5-Ind-12
95	Hughes, Montori	DT	6-4	350	2	Tennessee-Martin	D5-13	D5-Ind-13
97	Jones, Arthur	DT	6-3	337	5	Syracuse	FA-Bal-14	D5b-Bal-10
94	Kerr, Zach	NT	6-2	335	1	Delaware	FA-14	FA-Ind-14
99	Langford, Kendall	DT	6-6	313	7	Hampton	FA-StL-15	D3-Mia-08
64	Okine, Earl	DE	6-6	284	1	Florida	FA-15	FA-Hou-13
73	Quarles, Kelcy	DT	6-4	294	1	South Carolina	FA-14	FA-NYG-14
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
56	Adongo, Daniel	OLB	6-5	270	1	Pretoria	FA-13	FA-Ind-13
58	Cole, Trent	OLB	6-3	270	10	Cincinnati	FA-Phi-15	D5a-Phi-05
53	Fields, Carlos	LB	6-1	238	1	Winston-Salem St.	FA-14	FA-Oak-14
50	Freeman, Jerrell	ILB	6-0	240	3	Mary Hardin-Baylor	FA-12	FA-Ten-08
55	Irving, Nate	ILB	6-1	245	4	NC State	FA-Den-15	D3-Den-11
52	Jackson, D'Qwell	ILB	6-0	240	9	Maryland	FA-Cle-14	D2-Cle-06
59	Johnson, Cam	OLB	6-3	260	2	Virginia	T-SF-13	D7-SF-12
43	Loiseau, Shawn	ILB	6-0	239	1	Merrimack	FA-14	FA-Hou-12
98	Mathis, Robert	OLB	6-2	245	12	Alabama A&M	D5-03	D5-Ind-03
57	McNary, Josh	ILB	6-0	251	1	Army	FA-13	FA-Ind-13
48	Morgan, Aaron	OLB	6-4	250	4	UL Monroe	FA-14	FA-Jac-10
51	Muamba, Henoc	ILB	6-0	242	1	St. Francis Xavier	FA-14	FA-Ind-14
91	Newsome, Jonathan	OLB	6-3	251	1	Ball State	D5-14	D5-Ind-14
93	Walden, Erik	OLB	6-2	250	7	Middle Tennessee	FA-GB-13	D6-Dal-08
92	Werner, Bjoern	OLB	6-3	257	2	Florida State	D1-13	D1-Ind-13
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
29	Adams, Mike	S	5-11	200	11	Delaware	FA-14	FA-SF-04
32	Anderson, Colt	S	5-10	194	5	Montana	FA-Phi-14	FA-Min-09
25	Brown, Jalil	CB	6-1	207	4	Colorado	FA-14	D4-KC-11
20	Butler, Darius	CB	5-10	188	6	Connecticut	FA-12	D2-NE-09
38	Carr, Deveron	CB	5-11	190	1	Arizona State	FA-15	FA-TB-13
21	Davis, Vontae	CB	5-11	207	6	Illinois	T-Mia-12	D1-Mia-09
26	Guy, Winston	S	6-1	218	3	Kentucky	FA-14	D6-Sea-12
30	Landry, LaRon	S	6-0	226	8	LSU	FA-NYJ-13	D1-Was-07
33	Lowery, Dwight	S	5-11	212	7	San Jose State	FA-Atl-15	D4-NYJ-08
31	McDonald, Dewey	S	6-0	220	1	California (PA)	FA-14	FA-Ind-14
40	Price, Sheldon	CB	6-2	198	1	UCLA	FA-13	FA-Ind-13
28	Toler, Greg	CB	6-0	190	6	St. Paul's	FA-Ari-13	D4-Ari-09
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
1	McAfee, Pat	P	6-1	240	6	West Virginia	D7-09	D7-Ind-09
45	Overton, Matt	LS	6-1	241	3	Western Wash.	FA-12	FA-Sea-07
4	Vinatieri, Adam	K	6-0	209	19	South Dakota St.	FA-NE-06	FA-NE-96

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	81	Andre Johnson
	9	Duron Carter
WR	13	T.Y. Hilton
	10	Donte Moncrief
WR	16	Phillip Dorsett (R)
	10	Donte Moncrief
LT	74	Anthony Castonzo
	76	Joe Reitz
LG	75	Jack Mewhort
	66	Donald Thomas
C	72	Jonotthan Harrison
	62	Khaled Holmes
RG	79	Todd Herremans
	69	Hugh Thornton
RT	78	Gosder Cherilus
	68	Ulrick John
TE	83	Dwayne Allen
	80	Coby Fleener
QB	12	Andrew Luck
	8	Matt Hasselbeck
RB	23	Frank Gore
	36	Dan Herron

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	99	Kendall Langford
	96	Henry Anderson (R)
NT	96	Josh Chapman
	95	Montori Hughes
DT	97	Arthur Jones
	94	Zach Kerr
OLB	58	Trent Cole
	93	Erik Walden
ILB	52	D'Qwell Jackson
	51	Henoc Muamba
ILB	50	Jerrell Freeman
	55	Nate Irving
OLB	98	Robert Mathis
	91	Jonathan Newsome
CB	21	Vontae Davis
	20	Darius Butler
CB	28	Greg Toler
	30	D'Joun Smith (R)
SS	29	Mike Adams
	42	Clayton Geathers (R)
FS	33	Dwight Lowery
	32	Colt Anderson

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Adam Vinatieri	KR	16	Phillip Dorsett (R)
P	1	Pat McAfee	PR	16	Phillip Dorsett (R)

SCOUTING THE COLTS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP INDIANAPOLIS "You get the sense that everyone here feels the pressure of advancing one more step to the Super Bowl, and anything short of that goal will result in major coaching staff changes. ... With that said, they used Chuck Pagano's University of Miami background to sell Frank Gore and Andre Johnson on the idea that this is a team ready to win a ring. Gore continues to defy the odds at his age, while Johnson should have enough left to take some of the pressure off T.Y. Hilton, one of the most exciting and productive players in the NFL. ... Watch out for wide receiver Donte Moncrief, the third-rounder from Ole Miss in 2014 who flashed as a rookie. ... And yet, they had a curious first-round selection in Miami speedster Phillip Dorsett. ... The tight end group is very solid with Dwayne Allen, Coby Fleener and Jack Doyle. ... The offensive line is adequate at best with no dominant player in the starting five. ... The central figure for the entire organization is Andrew Luck. He is a transcendent talent that makes every responsibility of being a QB look easy, on and off the field. ... Every level of the defense could use a boost. ... The corners are better than average with a pass rush and when healthy. The trade for Vontae Davis has worked out well, and people inside the building really like Greg Toler."

2015 SCHEDULE

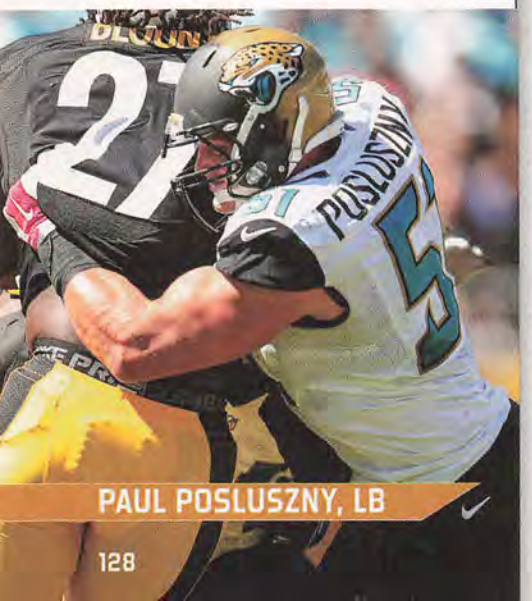
					2014 NFL RANKINGS			
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	at Buffalo	1:00	9-7	318.5 (26)	312.2 (4)	21.4 (18)	18.1 (4)
2	Sept. 21	N.Y. Jets (Mon.)	8:30	4-12	326.6 (22)	327.2 (6)	17.7 (28)	25.1 (24)
3	Sept. 27	at Tennessee	1:00	2-14	303.7 (29)	373.0 (27)	15.9 (30)	27.4 (30)
4	Oct. 4	Jacksonville	1:00	3-13	289.6 (31)	370.8 (26)	15.6 (32)	25.8 (26)
5	Oct. 8	at Houston (Thu.)	8:25	9-7	344.6 (17)	348.2 (16)	23.3 (14)	19.2 (7)
6	Oct. 18	New England	8:30	12-4	365.5 (11)	344.1 (13)	29.3 (4)	19.6 (8)
7	Oct. 25	New Orleans	1:00	7-9	411.4 (1)	384.0 (31)	25.1 (9)	26.5 (28)
8	Nov. 2	at Carolina (Mon.)	8:30	7-8-1	346.7 (16)	339.8 (10)	21.2 (19)	23.4 (21)
9	Nov. 8	Denver	4:25	12-4	402.9 (4)	305.2 (3)	30.1 (2)	22.1 (16)
10		BYE						
11	Nov. 22	at Atlanta	1:00	6-10	378.2 (8)	398.3 (32)	23.8 (12)	26.1 (27)
12	Nov. 29	Tampa Bay	1:00	2-14	292.0 (30)	368.9 (25)	17.3 (29)	25.6 (25)
13	Dec. 6	at Pittsburgh	8:30	11-5	411.1 (2)	353.4 (18)	27.3 (7)	23.0 (18)
14	Dec. 13	at Jacksonville	1:00	3-13	289.6 (31)	370.8 (26)	15.6 (32)	25.8 (26)
15	Dec. 20	Houston	1:00	9-7	344.6 (17)	348.2 (16)	23.3 (14)	19.2 (7)
16	Dec. 27	at Miami	1:00	8-8	350.1 (14)	343.4 (12)	24.3 (11)	23.3 (20)
17	Jan. 3	Tennessee	1:00	2-14	303.7 (29)	373.0 (27)	15.9 (30)	27.4 (30)

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Gus Bradley
RECORD WITH TEAM: 7–25
CAREER RECORD: 7–25
ASSISTANT HEAD COACH-OFFENSE/OFFENSIVE LINE: Doug Marrone
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Greg Olson
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Bob Babich
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Mike Mallory
QUARTERBACKS: Nathaniel Hackett
RUNNING BACKS: Kelly Skipper
WIDE RECEIVERS: Jerry Sullivan
TIGHT ENDS/SPECIAL TEAMS ASSISTANT: Ron Middleton
DEFENSIVE LINE: Todd Wash
LINEBACKERS: Robert Saleh
DEFENSIVE BACKS: DeWayne Walker

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



PAUL POSLUSZNY, LB

3 AFC SOUTH FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/CEO: Shahid Khan
PRESIDENT: Mark Lamping
GENERAL MANAGER: David Caldwell
DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION: Tim Walsh
STADIUM: EverBank Field (67,246)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.jaguars.com
TICKETS: 904-633-2000
TRAINING CAMP: EverBank Field (Jacksonville, Fla.)

Having watched the Jaguars win seven games during the first two years of the Dave Caldwell-Gus Bradley Era, owner Shad Khan wouldn't have been faulted this offseason if he had publicly mandated a specific number of wins for 2015. A regime's third season is usually prove-it-or-else time. But he has bypassed that request at every turn.

Still, Khan clearly expects more. More wins. More close games. More touchdowns. More takeaways. And he made his thoughts known when addressing fans in mid-February: "We owe (fans) better results on game day. I know that. Dave knows that. Gus knows that."

Knowing that, Caldwell (the general manager) and Bradley (the coach) went to work. They shook up the coaching staff. They signed a slew of free agents, six of whom are expected to start. And they added an eight-player draft class that will feature at least two opening-day starters.

OFFENSE The Jaguars reacted accordingly to a 3–13 season in which they didn't score much (league-low 15.6 points per game), couldn't run it (a misleading 21st), and didn't protect the passer (league-high 71 sacks allowed).

In are offensive coordinator Greg Olson, offensive line coach Doug Marrone, tight end Julius Thomas, right tackle Jermey Parnell, center Stefen Wisniewski, running back T.J. Yeldon, slot receiver Rashad Greene and, potentially, left guard A.J. Cann. All of the changes are geared toward giving quarterback Blake Bortles every chance to be successful. In 14 games last year, Bortles showed an ability to extend plays (by sliding around the pocket) and equal parts athleticism/smarts by rushing for 419 yards without taking any major hits. The guy is a playmaker. The Jaguars need him to be a difference-maker.

The Jaguars hope that the newcomers, combined with the development of players such as left tackle Luke Joeckel and the second-year receiving trio of Allen Robinson, Marqise Lee and Allen Hurns, can help Bortles produce an offensive revival. Joeckel has spent the offseason adding lower- and upper-body strength so he can more effectively smash opponents in the run game and hold up against them in the passing game. Houston has J.J. Watt, Tennessee has Brian Orakpo and Indianapolis has Trent Cole. Joeckel must be ready to face each of them twice within the AFC South.

Watch out for Robinson. He was on his way to 75 catches before being shut down after Game 10 with a foot injury. He's not a blazer, but he knows how to find the first-down marker and the openings in zone coverage. The Jaguars prefer to keep Robinson, Lee and Hurns on the outside, which created a need to draft Greene, a prolifically productive player at Florida State (school-record 270 catches) who will play in the slot.

Success for the Jaguars' offense will also center around three newcomers: Thomas, who had 24 touchdown catches the last two years for Denver and gives the Jaguars a red-zone component they've lacked for years; Parnell, who was a spot starter for Dallas but was given big money ($14.5 million guaranteed) to solidify a position that has been leaky for most of this decade; and Yeldon, the 36th overall pick who had two 1,000-yard rushing years at Alabama.

DEFENSE The Jaguars were similarly flawed on defense last year, finishing 27th against the run and tied for last in interceptions (six). And the changes weren't subtle. During the opening hours of free agency, defensive end Jared Odrick, outside linebacker Dan Skuta, cornerback Davon House and free safety Sergio Brown were signed to contracts worth a combined $32.1 million guaranteed. And then the Jaguars drafted pass rusher Dante Fowler Jr., free safety James Sample and defensive tackle Michael Bennett.

Fowler, though, tore his left ACL in the team's first rookie minicamp practice and is out for the season. That leaves Odrick as the key newcomer up front. He will play the strong-side end spot, and the Jaguars hope he can be a better all-around producer than Red Bryant was last year. At the weak-side spot without projected starter Fowler, the rotation will include Chris Clemons, Andre Branch and Ryan Davis. Inside, Sen'Derrick Marks has developed into a productive, every-down tackle, but is rehabilitating from a late December ACL injury. Although ahead of schedule in late April, the guess is that the Jaguars will bring him along slowly so he can be ready for Week 1. But it's likely he will see his playing time reduced while he works back into shape. The other starter, Roy Miller, is also coming off knee surgery but is expected to be full-go for camp.

The loss of Fowler could have a crippling effect on the Jaguars' pass rush. Bradley and coordinator Bob Babich don't call many blitzes (less than 20 percent in 2015), relying on a four-man

Cheer: Mark Langello; Posluszny, Bortles: Tom DiPace

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

INJURY CONCERNS A constant on the Jaguars' defensive line the last two years has been the defensive tackle position. Sen'Derrick Marks and Roy Miller are 2013 free-agent additions who are now playing on their second contracts. But Miller was shut down late last year, and Marks tore his anterior cruciate ligament in the season finale. Both had surgery and were limited throughout the offseason. Their progress bears watching when the 2014 season begins.

OLSON'S RETURN In 2012, Greg Olson served as the Jaguars' assistant head coach/quarterbacks coach, charged with finding a way to reach former No. 10 overall pick Blaine Gabbert. Things didn't work out — Gabbert struggled before sustaining a season-ending arm injury, and Olson was caught up in the coaching staff turnover. Following two years as Oakland's offensive coordinator, Olson is back in Jacksonville as the new play-caller. This time, his task is developing former third overall pick Blake Bortles.

EARLY SEASON TESTS The Jaguars wanted a home-friendly opening to their schedule after playing four of their first six games on the road in 2013-14. And they got it, hosting Carolina and Miami. But that is followed by a three-game trip — New England, Indianapolis and Tampa Bay — for the fifth time in franchise history, a difficult test for a Jaguars team that went 0-8 on the road last year.

JAGUARS IN LONDON, PART III The Jaguars are halfway through a four-year agreement to play one "home" game a year at London's Wembley Stadium. The good — playing in England has done wonders for the Jaguars' financial bottom line. The bad — they haven't been competitive in their first two trips, losing by a combined 46 points to San Francisco and Dallas. Regardless, expect the arrangement to be extended for years to come.

SO LONG, FULLBACK Olson's arrival as offensive coordinator signaled the end of the fullback position. Will Ta'ufo'ou handled those duties the last two years but wasn't re-signed. In two-back formations, the Jaguars will use a tight end or an extra offensive lineman. Look for the team to keep five tight ends instead of the usual four.

MARRONE'S MOVE One of the most interesting coaching decisions after last season belonged to Doug Marrone. Using a loophole in his contract, he opted out of his job as the Buffalo Bills' head coach (walking away with $3 million). He was interested in the openings with Chicago and the New York Jets, but ultimately joined the Jaguars as offensive line coach.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
S	Sergio Brown	Indianapolis
CB	Davon House	Green Bay
DE	Jared Odrick	Miami
OT	Jermey Parnell	Dallas
LB	Dan Skuta	San Francisco
TE	Julius Thomas	Denver
C	Stefen Wisniewski	Oakland

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
CB	Alan Ball	Chicago
WR	Cecil Shorts	Houston
LB	J.T. Thomas	Seattle
RB	Jordan Todman	Carolina

BLAKE BORTLES, QB

2014 RESULTS (3-13)

Sept. 7	at Philadelphia	L	17-34
Sept. 14	at Washington	L	10-41
Sept. 21	Indianapolis	L	17-44
Sept. 28	at San Diego	L	14-33
Oct. 5	Pittsburgh	L	9-17
Oct. 12	at Tennessee	L	14-16
Oct. 19	Cleveland	W	24-6
Oct. 26	Miami	L	13-27
Nov. 2	at Cincinnati	L	23-33
Nov. 9	Dallas	L	17-31
Nov. 23	at Indianapolis	L	3-23
Nov. 30	N.Y. Giants	W	25-24
Dec. 7	Houston	L	13-27
Dec. 14	at Baltimore	L	12-20
Dec. 18	Tennessee	W	21-13
Dec. 28	at Houston	L	17-23

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Blake Bortles	475	280	2,908	11	17
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Denard Robinson	135	582	4.3	4	
Blake Bortles	56	419	7.5	0	
Toby Gerhart	101	326	3.2	2	
Jordan Todman	32	186	5.8	1	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Cecil Shorts	53	557	10.5	1	
Allen Hurns	51	677	13.3	6	
Allen Robinson	48	548	11.4	2	
Marqise Lee	37	422	11.4	1	
Clay Harbor	26	289	11.1	1	

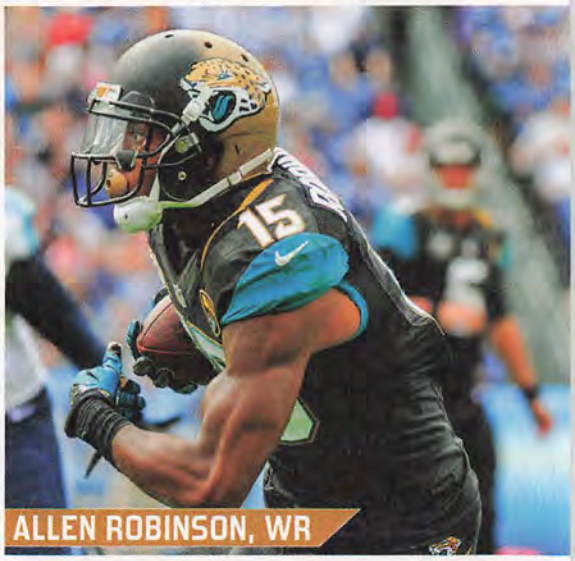
KICKING: Josh Scobee, 20-26 FGs, 23-23 PATs, 83 points
TACKLES: Johnathan Cyprien, 114; Telvin Smith, 104
SACKS: Sen'Derrick Marks, 8.5; Chris Clemons, 8.0
INTERCEPTIONS: J.T. Thomas, 2; four players tied with 1

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	289.6	31	15
Rushing	102.1	21	11
Passing	187.6	31	15
Scoring	15.6	32	16
Third Down %	31.9	29	14
Punt Returns	7.1	T22	T10
Kick Returns	24.0	12	7
TEAM DEFENSE	**Stat**	**NFL Rank**	**AFC Rank**
Total	370.8	26	15
Rushing	127.1	27	13
Passing	243.7	22	14
Scoring	25.8	26	14
Interceptions	6	T27	T14
Sacks	45	T6	T4
Turnover Differential	-6	25	13

rush to provide pressure. That may not be the best strategy this year.

Linebacker depth is a concern. The starters are set entering camp — Paul Posluszny in the middle, Skuta on the strong side and Telvin Smith on the weak side. But the Jaguars, who didn't address the position in the draft, are in trouble if they have injury issues. Skuta and Smith are intriguing for different reasons. Skuta can rush the passer on third down, and Smith is simply around the football at all times. A key is Posluszny's health. He missed the last half of 2014 with a torn chest muscle.


ALLEN ROBINSON, WR

This is a huge season for strong safety Johnathan Cyprien, now in his third year in the league. "It's time," defensive backs coach DeWayne Walker says. Time for Cyprien to change games. Time for him to create turnovers. Time for him to be noticed. The Jaguars hope that settling on Brown or Sample at free safety will create more opportunities for Cyprien to play in the box. House was signed from Green Bay to bring experience to the cornerback spot, where he'll lead Demetrius McCray, Aaron Colvin and Dwayne Gratz. Colvin could be the best of them. An ACL injury dropped him to the fourth round last year, but he played the final six games and showed flashes of being a playmaker in coverage.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Josh Scobee, punter Bryan Anger and long snapper Carson Tinker will return for their 12th, fourth and third seasons, respectively, with the Jaguars. Scobee was 17-of-20 last year on field goals from under 50 yards, and Anger posted a net average of 39.6 yards. Where this unit will undergo some change is in the return game. Ace Sanders has had two years to give the punt return game a spark and hasn't produced. The candidates to replace him are Tandon Doss (out last year with an ankle injury) and Greene, the rookie receiver. Running back Denard Robinson will get the first shot on kickoff returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS This entire season hinges on the Jaguars' offense in general and the team's early-season offense in particular. Can the players, chiefly Bortles, get up to speed with Olson's offense? Can second-year receivers Robinson, Lee and Hurns take steps forward in their progress? Can Yeldon and Thomas emerge as much-needed playmakers? If all of that happens, a jump from three wins to maybe .500 could be in the offing.

JAGUARS IN THE DRAFT

B-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Dante Fowler Jr.	DE	6-3	261	Florida
2.	T.J. Yeldon	RB	6-1	226	Alabama
3.	A.J. Cann	G	6-3	313	South Carolina
4.	James Sample	FS	6-2	209	Louisville
5.	Rashad Greene	WR	5-11	182	Florida State
6.	Michael Bennett	DT	6-2	293	Ohio State
7.	Neal Sterling	WR	6-3	238	Monmouth
7.	Ben Koyack	TE	6-5	255	Notre Dame

Having their choice of any non-quarterback on the board, the Jaguars opted for Dante Fowler Jr., whom they view as a long-term pass-rushing threat. But that won't happen until 2016 after Fowler sustained a torn knee ligament on May 8. After Fowler, the Jaguars went need-best player available-need-need in rounds 2-5. T.J. Yeldon will get a chance to follow in the footsteps of all-time Jaguars greats Fred Taylor and Maurice Jones-Drew and be a foundation back. The Jaguars were surprised that A.J. Cann was still available, so they scooped him up to challenge veteran Zane Beadles, who was a disappointment last year. Rashad Greene (slot receiver/punt return) and Michael Bennett (interior third-down pass rusher) are expected to have immediate roles. Greene was one of the top receivers in college football the past few years. James Sample enhances the depth in the secondary.

Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
5 Bortles, Blake	QB	6-5	232	1	UCF	D1-14	D1-Jac-14
7 Henne, Chad	QB	6-3	230	7	Michigan	FA-Mia-12	D2b-Mia-08
6 Morris, Stephen	QB	6-2	218	1	Miami	FA-14	FA-Jac-14
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
33 Ewing, Bradie	FB	5-11	243	3	Wisconsin	W-Atl-14	D5-Atl-12
21 Gerhart, Toby	RB	6-0	231	5	Stanford	FA-Min-14	D2b-Min-10
34 Johnson, Storm	RB	6-0	216	1	UCF	D7-14	D7-Jac-14
30 Pierce, Bernard	RB	6-0	230	3	Temple	W-Bal-15	D3-Bal-12
16 Robinson, Denard	RB	6-0	197	2	Michigan	D5-13	D5-Jac-13
45 Ta'ufo'ou, Will	FB	5-11	247	3	California	FA-12	FA-Chi-09
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
12 Brown, Mike	WR	5-10	200	2	Liberty	FA-14	FA-Jac-12
83 Copeland, Damian	WR	6-1	182	1	Louisville	FA-14	FA-Jac-14
17 Doss, Tandon	WR	6-2	205	4	Indiana	FA-Bal-14	D4-Bal-11
86 Harbor, Clay	TE	6-3	255	5	Missouri State	W-Phi-13	D4-Phi-10
88 Hurns, Allen	WR	6-3	195	1	Miami	FA-14	FA-Jac-14
85 Jacobs, Nic	TE	6-5	269	1	McNeese State	PS-NO-14	FA-NO-14
11 Lee, Marqise	WR	6-0	192	1	USC	D2-14	D2-Jac-14
89 Lewis, Marcedes	TE	6-6	272	9	UCLA	D1-06	D1-Jac-06
15 Robinson, Allen	WR	6-3	210	1	Penn State	D2a-14	D2a-Jac-14
18 Sanders, Ace	WR	5-7	178	2	South Carolina	D4-13	D4-Jac-13
13 Streeter, Tommy	WR	6-5	215	2	Miami	FA-14	D6-Bal-12
80 Thomas, Julius	TE	6-5	250	4	Portland State	FA-Den-15	D4b-Den-11
81 Walters, Bryan	WR	6-0	190	1	Cornell	FA-15	FA-SD-10
80 Washington, Tony	WR	5-11	198	1	Appalachian State	FA-14	FA-Ind-14
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
68 Beadles, Zane	G	6-4	305	5	Utah	FA-Den-14	D2-Den-10
73 Booth, Cody	T	6-4	292	1	Temple	FA-14	FA-Chi-14
70 Bowanko, Luke	C	6-6	300	1	Virginia	D6-14	D6-Jac-14
76 Joeckel, Luke	T	6-6	306	2	Texas A&M	D1-13	D1-Jac-13
65 Linder, Brandon	G	6-6	311	1	Miami	D3-14	D3-Jac-14
78 Parnell, Jermey	T	6-6	315	5	Ole Miss	FA-Dal-15	FA-NO-09
67 Pasztor, Austin	T	6-7	308	2	Virginia	FA-12	FA-Min-12
69 Shatley, Tyler	G	6-3	300	1	Clemson	FA-14	FA-Jac-14
72 Wells, Josh	T	6-6	310	1	James Madison	FA-14	FA-Jac-14
61 Wisniewski, Stefen	C/G	6-3	315	4	Penn State	FA-Oak-15	D2-Oak-11
74 Young, Sam	T	6-8	316	5	Notre Dame	W-Buf-13	D6-Dal-10
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
93 Alualu, Tyson	DE	6-3	295	5	California	D1-10	D1-Jac-10
90 Branch, Andre	DE	6-5	265	3	Clemson	D2-12	D2-Jac-12
91 Clemons, Chris	DE	6-3	254	11	Georgia	FA-Sea-14	FA-Was-03
59 Davis, Ryan	DE	6-2	260	2	Bethune-Cookman	FA-13	FA-Jac-12
92 Hood, Ziggy	DT	6-3	300	6	Missouri	FA-Pit-14	D1-Pit-09
95 Jones, Abry	DT	6-4	312	2	Georgia	FA-13	FA-Jac-13
99 Marks, Sen'Derrick	DT	6-2	294	6	Auburn	FA-Ten-13	D2-Ten-09
97 Miller III, Roy	DT	6-2	310	6	Texas	FA-TB-13	D3-TB-09
75 Odrick, Jared	DE	6-5	304	5	Penn State	FA-Mia-15	D1-Mia-10
98 Smith, Chris	DE	6-1	266	1	Arkansas	D5b-14	D5b-Jac-14
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
58 Fortt, Khairi	LB	6-2	240	1	California	PS-Cin-14	D4-NO-14
54 George, Jeremiah	LB	5-11	234	1	Iowa State	PS-NYJ-14	D5-NYJ-14
53 Lotulelei, John	LB	5-11	233	2	UNLV	W-Sea-13	FA-Sea-13
51 Posluszny, Paul	LB	6-2	242	8	Penn State	FA-Buf-11	D2-Buf-07
56 Reynolds, LaRoy	LB	6-1	243	2	Virginia	FA-13	FA-Jac-13
55 Skuta, Dan	LB	6-2	250	6	Grand Valley State	FA-SF-15	Fa-Cin-09
50 Smith, Telvin	LB	6-3	218	1	Florida State	D5a-14	D5a-Jac-14
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
38 Brown, Sergio	S	6-2	218	5	Notre Dame	FA-Ind-15	FA-NE-10
24 Campbell, Tommie	CB	6-3	198	4	California (PA)	FA-14	D7-Ten-11
22 Colvin, Aaron	CB	6-0	186	1	Oklahoma	D4-14	D4-Jac-14
37 Cyprien, Johnathan	S	6-0	217	2	FIU	D2-13	D2-Jac-13
42 Daniels, Matt	S	6-0	212	3	Duke	FA-14	FA-StL-12
26 Evans, Josh	S	6-0	205	2	Florida	D6-13	D6-Jac-13
27 Gratz, Dwayne	CB	5-11	201	2	Connecticut	D3-13	D3-Jac-13
23 Harris, Jeremy	CB	6-2	185	2	New Mexico State	D7a-13	D7a-Jac-13
31 House, Davon	CB	6-0	195	4	New Mexico State	FA-GB-15	D4-GB-11
20 Loston, Craig	S	6-2	209	1	LSU	FA-14	FA-Jac-14
36 Martin, Sherrod	S	6-1	200	5	Troy	FA-14	D2-Car-09
35 McCray, Demetrius	CB	6-2	200	2	Appalachian State	D7b-13	D7b-Jac-13
40 Reynolds, Rashaad	CB	5-11	187	1	Oregon State	FA-14	FA-Jac-14
25 Thompson, Peyton	CB	5-10	180	3	San Jose State	FA-14	FA-Atl-12
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
19 Anger, Bryan	P	6-3	202	3	California	D3-12	D3-Jac-12
2 Myers, Jason	K	5-10	180	0	Marist	FA-15	FA-Jac-15
10 Scobee, Josh	K	6-1	210	11	Louisiana Tech	D5a-04	D5a-Jac-04
46 Tinker, Carson	LS	6-0	233	2	Alabama	FA-13	FA-Jac-13

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	11	Marqise Lee
	88	Allen Hurns
WR	15	Allen Robinson
	17	Tandon Doss
WR	1	Rashad Greene (R)
	81	Bryan Walters
LT	76	Luke Joeckel
	72	Josh Wells
LG	68	Zane Beadles
		A.J. Cann (R)
C	61	Stefen Wisniewski
	70	Luke Bowanko
RG	65	Brandon Linder
	69	Tyler Shatley
RT	78	Jermey Parnell
	67	Austin Pasztor
TE	80	Julius Thomas
	89	Marcedes Lewis
QB	5	Blake Bortles
	7	Chad Henne
RB	24	T.J. Yeldon (R)
	21	Toby Gerhart

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	91	Chris Clemons
	90	Andre Branch
DT	99	Sen'Derrick Marks
	92	Ziggy Hood
DT	97	Roy Miller
	95	Abry Jones
DE	75	Jared Odrick
	93	Tyson Alualu
SLB	55	Dan Skuta
	53	John Lotulelei
MLB	51	Paul Posluszny
	54	Jeremiah George
WLB	50	Telvin Smith
	58	Khairi Fortt
CB	31	Davon House
	27	Dwayne Gratz
CB	35	Demetrius McCray
	22	Aaron Colvin
SS	37	Johnathan Cyprien
	26	Josh Evans
FS	38	Sergio Brown
	36	James Sample (R)

SPECIALISTS

K	10	Josh Scobee
P	19	Bryan Anger
KR	16	Denard Robinson
PR	17	Tandon Doss

SCOUTING THE JAGUARS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP JACKSONVILLE "Owner Shad Khan appears to be in lock step with head coach Gus Bradley and GM David Caldwell, but after a 3–13 season in 2014, the urgency to take a big step forward is there for this season. ... Bradley has done an impressive job of keeping the team's focus and energy high, but the truth is, the results must improve and almost the entire operation is riding on quarterback Blake Bortles. ... The Jags found three rookie receivers in Marqise Lee, Allen Robinson and Allen Hurns who should develop on the same track as Bortles. ... Tackle Luke Joeckel bounced back from appearing in only five games as a rookie and started all 16 in 2014. A capable line is in the works with left guard Zane Beadles and right guard Brandon Linder. ... Second-round pick T.J. Yeldon, the running back out of Alabama, should be an instant starter and will pair off with Denard Robinson. ... Defensively, they spent the third pick in the draft on Florida outside linebacker Dante Fowler Jr., and he will be a star player in the league. ... This unit has made incremental strides under Bradley and Bob Babich, but they have been woefully short in terms of having difference-making talent. ... Inside linebacker Paul Posluszny is a steady-Eddie, while weak-side linebacker Telvin Smith proved to be a nice late-round pick in 2014."

2015 SCHEDULE

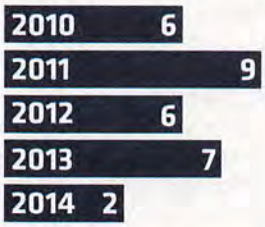
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	2014 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	Carolina	1:00	7-8-1	346.7 (16)	339.8 (10)	21.2 (19)	23.4 (21)
2	Sept. 20	Miami	4:05	8-8	350.1 (14)	343.4 (12)	24.3 (11)	23.3 (20)
3	Sept. 27	at New England	1:00	12-4	365.5 (11)	344.1 (13)	29.3 (4)	19.6 (8)
4	Oct. 4	at Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	406.6 (3)	342.7 (11)	28.6 (6)	23.1 (19)
5	Oct. 11	at Tampa Bay	1:00	2-14	292.0 (30)	368.9 (25)	17.3 (29)	25.6 (25)
6	Oct. 18	Houston	1:00	9-7	344.6 (17)	348.2 (16)	23.3 (14)	19.2 (7)
7	Oct. 25	vs. Buffalo (London)	9:30 a.m.	9-7	318.5 (26)	312.2 (4)	21.4 (18)	18.1 (4)
8		BYE						
9	Nov. 8	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	326.6 (22)	327.2 (6)	17.7 (28)	25.1 (24)
10	Nov. 15	at Baltimore	1:00	10-6	364.9 (12)	336.9 (8)	25.6 (8)	18.9 (6)
11	Nov. 19	Tennessee (Thu.)	8:25	2-14	303.7 (29)	373.0 (27)	15.9 (30)	27.4 (30)
12	Nov. 29	San Diego	1:00	9-7	341.6 (18)	338.3 (9)	21.8 (17)	21.8 (13)
13	Dec. 6	at Tennessee	1:00	2-14	303.7 (29)	373.0 (27)	15.9 (30)	27.4 (30)
14	Dec. 13	Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	406.6 (3)	342.7 (11)	28.6 (6)	23.1 (19)
15	Dec. 20	Atlanta	1:00	6-10	378.2 (8)	398.3 (32)	23.8 (12)	26.1 (27)
16	Dec. 27	at New Orleans	1:00	7-9	411.4 (1)	384.0 (31)	25.1 (9)	26.5 (28)
17	Jan. 3	at Houston	1:00	9-7	344.6 (17)	348.2 (16)	23.3 (14)	19.2 (7)

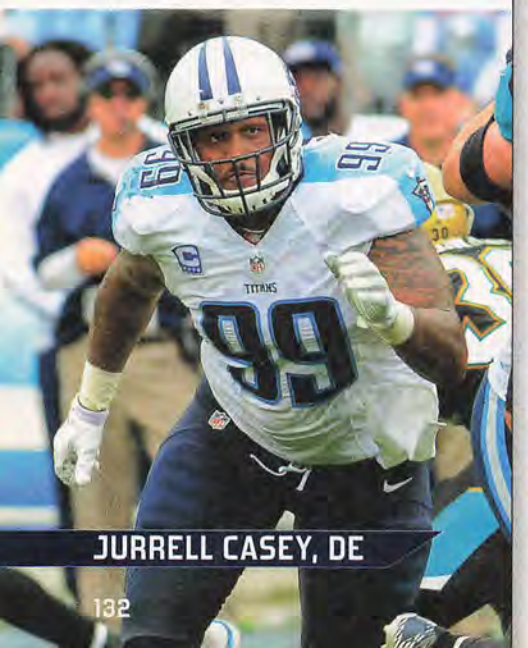
TENNESSEE TITANS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Ken Whisenhunt
RECORD WITH TEAM: 2–14
CAREER RECORD: 47–65
ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/DEFENSE: Dick LeBeau
ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/TIGHT ENDS: Mike Mularkey
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jason Michael
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Ray Horton
SPECIAL TEAMS: Nate Kaczor
QUARTERBACKS: John McNulty
RUNNING BACKS: Sylvester Croom
WIDE RECEIVERS: Shawn Jefferson
OFFENSIVE LINE: Bob Bostad
DEFENSIVE LINE: Giff Smith
LINEBACKERS: Lou Spanos
DEFENSIVE BACKS: Louie Cioffi

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND





JURRELL CASEY, DE

4 AFC SOUTH FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

PRESIDENT/CEO: Steve Underwood (interim)
EXECUTIVE VP/GENERAL MANAGER: Ruston Webster
VP OF FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION: Vin Marino
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION: Dennis Polian
STADIUM: LP Field (68,143)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.titansonline.com
TICKETS: 615-565-4200
TRAINING CAMP: St. Thomas Sports Park (Nashville, Tenn.)

The Tennessee Titans hope that Year 2 of the Ken Whisenhunt regime will be markedly better than Year 1. In Whisenhunt's first season as head coach, the Titans bottomed out, going 2–14 and losing their final 10 games.

And while the sparse crowds at LP Field reflected just how far this franchise has fallen, it might not be the worst thing in the long run. Sinking to such low depths allowed the Titans to finally embrace a rebuild after several years of treading water with middle-of-the-pack records and no playoff appearances. Beginning with the drafting of 2014 Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota to build around at quarterback, the Titans could have real hope for the future for the first time in a number of years, though it may take some time for that hope to be realized.

OFFENSE By drafting Mariota second overall, the Titans are banking that the former Duck can be a bird of a different feather when it comes to transitioning from Oregon's hurry-up spread offense to a conventional pro-style scheme. Mariota has the physical skills, and the Titans were impressed most by his football acumen throughout the draft process. Still, there are basic components of playing the position — from the simplest things such as taking the snap under center and calling plays in the huddle to more complex components such as progressions — that will take time to master. Whisenhunt, who was rigid with scrambling quarterback Jake Locker a year ago, has promised to be more flexible to accommodate Mariota, who has already been penciled in as the starter over Zach Mettenberger.

At running back, the Titans appear to be in flux. Bishop Sankey, a second-round pick a year ago, disappointed with only 569 yards rushing, and veteran Shonn Greene might not be on the roster come the season opener if fifth-round pick David Cobb shows he is capable of handling the "big back" role. Sankey didn't seem to have an extra gear as a rookie, while Greene has been injured and inconsistent in two years in Tennessee. The wild card in the running back room is Dexter McCluster, signed to a free-agent deal a year ago and then wasted as the Titans never found a role for him. A Sankey/Cobb combination is probably what the Titans are hoping for as the season opens.

In the receiving corps, the Titans have done their best to upgrade a lackluster cast. Kendall Wright's production dipped to just 57 catches after 94 in 2013, and Justin Hunter remains an enigma. The organization still believes Hunter has the talent to be an elite receiver, but he simply hasn't shown the swagger that top-flight receivers display on the field. Enter second-round pick Dorial Green-Beckham, who seems to have plenty of that to go with a 6'5", 237-pound frame. Green-Beckham, a likely top-10 pick without his off-field issues, boldly says his goal is to score at least 10 touchdowns as a rookie. The Titans signed two former 1,000-yard receivers in free agency, adding Harry Douglas and Hakeem Nicks with the hope that both can bounce back after their production dropped dramatically in 2014.

Currently, the best weapon among the receivers is tight end Delanie Walker, the best free-agent signing of the Ruston Webster era as GM. Walker led the Titans with 63 catches for a franchise-record 890 yards receiving by a tight end. Not bad, considering that three different quarterbacks started last year. The Titans added journeyman Anthony Fasano as a free agent, in large part because Craig Stevens and Taylor Thompson were both injured last year.

The offensive line's lone bright spot was 2014 first-round pick Taylor Lewan, who became a starter after Michael Roos was injured (and later retired). Right guard Chance Warmack, the 2013 first-round pick, finally started to show promise by year's end. Other than those two, it was a disaster. Left guard Andy Levitre, who signed a $46.8 million free-agent deal in 2013, was too often handled at the point of attack and was plagued by penalties as well. Center Brian Schwenke, who has been average in his two years, finished the year on injured reserve. The Titans used seven different tackles a year ago, thanks to injuries. None of them was effective. Starter Michael Oher struggled and was released. The Titans did bring back Byron Stingily to compete with free-agent signee Byron Bell, who played poorly in Carolina last year. The Titans hope that third-round pick Jeremiah Poutasi can claim a spot in camp.

DEFENSE The biggest move of the offseason for the defense wasn't a player but a coach. Legendary defensive mind Dick LeBeau, a long-time friend of Whisenhunt, comes over after parting ways with the Steelers. Ray Horton still has the title of defensive coordinator, but LeBeau is calling the shots. Personnel-wise, the Titans needed upgrades after ranking 27th overall defensively and allowing 373 yards per game in 2014. Other than adding rookie

Mariota: Donn Jones/Tennessee Titans; Casey, Cheerleader: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

NUMBERS GAME It didn't take long for the Titans to give quarterback Marcus Mariota his familiar No. 8 after being drafted. Kicker Ryan Succop, who had No. 8, changed his number to 4, but he did have a little fun with the rookie quarterback on social media before surrendering No. 8 to him. Succop tweeted an Instagram photo of himself lifting weights saying Mariota could have his number free of charge if he could win an arm wrestling match with him.

GO TITANS At least two members of the 2015 draft class were Titans fans before being selected by the team. Fifth-round running back David Cobb says that the reason he wore No. 27 for the Minnesota Golden Gophers was because he was a big fan of former Titans running back Eddie George growing up as a kid in Texas. Cobb isn't likely to get to wear 27 as a Titan, though. The number technically has not been retired, but it has not been issued to any player since George left the Titans. Rookie linebacker Deiontrez Mount of Louisville, a sixth-round pick, says he was a fan of the team as well, specifically during the era of George, Steve McNair and Jevon Kearse.

ON THE SPOT One of the players who needs to produce more in 2015 is second-year running back Bishop Sankey, who led the team with 569 yards but did not have the type of season the Titans hoped for in 2014. "I think Bishop has got to play a little bit better than he did last year from a standpoint of assignment-wise," says head coach Ken Whisenhunt. "He's been in here working very hard. I have no doubt that missing the spring last year hurt him. ... I think Bishop will be better. He understands his role better. There were some things he did well and some things he didn't do as well."

NOT A FAN Titans defensive end Jurrell Casey is a bit unusual in terms of his following of football and sports in general. Casey, the Titans' best defensive player, makes it readily known that he does not watch sports during his free time. Other than film study, if Casey is going to watch something in his free time, then it usually doesn't involve a sporting event.

RENAISSANCE MAN Tight end Craig Stevens has varied interests away from the field. Stevens is a fly fisherman in his spare time and enjoys making his own furniture in his home wood-working shop.

TARGETING 10 Second-round pick Dorial Green-Beckham has a goal to reach double digits in scores as a rookie. "I feel like I am going to be an impact coming in right away and being able to score a lot of touchdowns," he says. "I am shooting for at least 10 or more."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
T	Byron Bell	Carolina
CB	Perrish Cox	San Francisco
WR	Harry Douglas	Atlanta
TE	Anthony Fasano	Kansas City
LB	Jonathan Massaquoi	Atlanta
WR	Hakeem Nicks	Indianapolis
LB	Brian Orakpo	Washington

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
QB	Jake Locker	Retired
LB	Colin McCarthy	Free Agent
T	Michael Oher	Carolina
S	Bernard Pollard	Free Agent
WR	Nate Washington	Houston
S	George Wilson	Free Agent

MARCUS MARIOTA, QB

2014 RESULTS (2-14)

Sept. 7	at Kansas City	W	26-10
Sept. 14	Dallas	L	10-26
Sept. 21	at Cincinnati	L	7-33
Sept. 28	at Indianapolis	L	17-41
Oct. 5	Cleveland	L	28-29
Oct. 12	Jacksonville	W	16-14
Oct. 19	at Washington	L	17-19
Oct. 26	Houston	L	16-30
Nov. 9	at Baltimore	L	7-21
Nov. 17	Pittsburgh	L	24-27
Nov. 23	at Philadelphia	L	24-43
Nov. 30	at Houston	L	21-45
Dec. 7	N.Y. Giants	L	7-36
Dec. 14	N.Y. Jets	L	11-16
Dec. 18	at Jacksonville	L	13-21
Dec. 28	Indianapolis	L	10-27

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Charlie Whitehurst	185	105	1,326	7	2
Zach Mettenberger	179	107	1,412	8	7
Jake Locker	146	86	993	5	7
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Bishop Sankey	152	569	3.7	2	
Shonn Greene	94	392	4.2	2	
Dexter McCluster	40	131	3.3	0	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Delanie Walker	63	890	14.1	4	
Kendall Wright	57	715	12.5	6	
Nate Washington	40	647	16.2	2	
Justin Hunter	28	498	17.8	3	

KICKING: Ryan Succop, 19-22 FGs, 27-27 PATs, 84 points
TACKLES: Michael Griffin, 112; Jason McCourty, 85
SACKS: Derrick Morgan, 6.5; Jurrell Casey, 5.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Jason McCourty, 3; Two players tied with 2

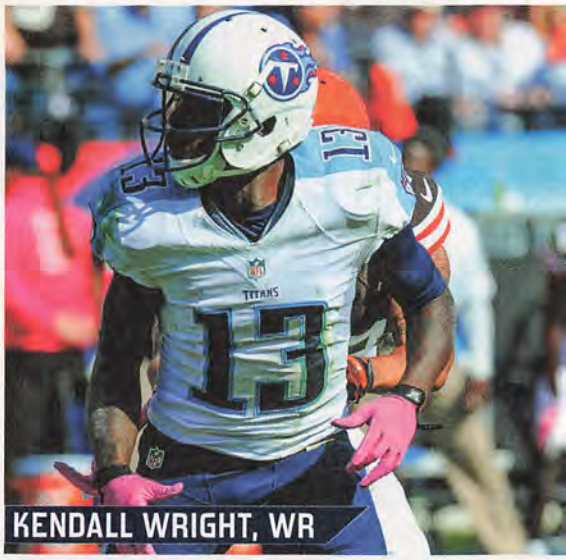
2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	303.7	29	14
Rushing	90.4	26	14
Passing	213.2	22	11
Scoring	15.9	30	14
Third Down %	30.1	31	15
Punt Returns	6.9	T26	T12
Kick Returns	23.4	16	

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	373.0	27	16
Rushing	137.2	31	15
Passing	235.8	15	9
Scoring	27.4	T29	15
Interceptions	12	T21	T8
Sacks	39	T16	T9
Turnover Differential	-10	28	14

Angelo Blackson on the defensive line, the Titans kept the status quo among the front three, where end Jurrell Casey is by far the best player. Nose tackle Sammie Hill is adequate, and Ropati Pitoitua, on the other end, is a decent run stopper, but not much as a pass rusher. End Karl Klug was re-signed and is a solid role player.

The Titans needed help at outside linebacker and signed Redskins free agent Brian Orakpo, who will help if he can stay healthy. They re-upped Derrick Morgan, who made a decent transition last year from 4-3 defensive end to 3-4 linebacker. Avery Williamson, a 2014 fifth-round pick, was a nice find with 79 tackles. He will start alongside Zach Brown, lost for the year in Week 1 with torn pectoral in 2014. That drops veteran Wesley Woodyard into a reserve role.


KENDALL WRIGHT, WR

The secondary got a makeover in the offseason. Safety Bernard Pollard, who missed most of last year with an Achilles injury, popped off about the organization and was released. Da'Norris Searcy was imported from Buffalo to take his place. He will start alongside Michael Griffin, who has lost a step but still plays OK if there is sufficient talent around him. At cornerback, Jason McCourty is solid on one side, and Perrish Cox comes over from the 49ers as an upgrade over Blidi Wreh-Wilson, who struggled badly last year in coverage. Nickel back Coty Sensabaugh is so-so, but the Titans seem to like young backup safeties Marqueston Huff and Daimion Stafford, who could contribute in certain sub-packages.

SPECIALISTS The Titans made sure to re-sign reliable kicker Ryan Succop (19-of-22 on field goals), who came to the team after being cut by the Chiefs last year. Solid punter Brett Kern and long snapper Beau Brinkley received contract extensions as well. With Leon Washington not re-signed, McCluster should claim return duties. Seventh-round receiver Tre McBride or veteran Jacoby Ford could be options as well.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Titans have a long way to go before they can return to respectability. They have chosen Mariota to lead them there. The talented quarterback passes the eye test and has the smarts to give the Titans their first franchise quarterback since Steve McNair. But it will probably take some time as he adjusts to an NFL offense. Expect the Titans to be better in 2015, but they're probably still another offseason away from contending.

TITANS IN THE DRAFT

B+

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Marcus Mariota	QB	6-4	222	Oregon
2.	D. Green-Beckham	WR	6-5	237	Missouri
3.	Jeremiah Poutasi	OT	6-5	335	Utah
4.	Angelo Blackson	DT	6-4	318	Auburn
4.	Jalston Fowler	FB	5-11	254	Alabama
5.	David Cobb	RB	5-11	229	Minnesota
6.	Deiontrez Mount	LB	6-5	249	Louisville
6.	Andy Gallik	C	6-2	306	Boston College
7.	Tre McBride	WR	6-0	210	William & Mary

Starting with Marcus Mariota, almost the entire 2015 draft class will get the chance to contribute in some capacity. Mariota has already been declared the starting quarterback, and Dorial Green-Beckham will likely get a chance to play early if he lives up to the hype of his big-play potential. Jeremiah Poutasi can easily claim the starting right tackle job with a strong camp. Angelo Blackson probably falls into the defensive line rotation somewhere, while the Titans like Jalston Fowler's jack-of-all-trades type role, with plans for him to work at fullback, tight end and tailback in certain packages. Of the late-round picks, David Cobb figures into the running back rotation, while Tre McBride could earn a role not only as a receiver but also in the return game. Deiontrez Mount and Andy Gallik may need some time to develop as rookies but could still find roles on special teams in 2015.

Wright: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports; Green-Beckham: Wade Payne

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
7 Mettenberger, Zach	QB	6-5	224	1	LSU	D6-14	D6-Ten-14
11 Tanney, Alex	QB	6-4	220	2	Monmouth	FA-14	FA-KC-12
12 Whitehurst, Charlie	QB	6-5	226	9	Clemson	FA-SD-14	D3-SD-06

RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
26 Andrews, Antonio	RB	5-10	225	1	Western Kentucky	FA-14	FA-Ten-14
23 Greene, Shonn	RB	5-11	233	6	Iowa	FA-NYJ-13	D3-NYJ-09
22 McCluster, Dexter	RB	5-8	170	5	Ole Miss	FA-KC-14	D2-KC-10
20 Sankey, Bishop	RB	5-10	209	1	Washington	D2-14	D2-Ten-14
37 Seastrunk, Lache	RB	5-9	200	1	Baylor	FA-14	D6-Was-14

RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
83 Douglas, Harry	WR	6-0	183	6	Louisville	FA-Atl-15	D3b-Atl-08
80 Fasano, Anthony	TE	6-4	255	9	Notre Dame	FA-KC-15	D2-Dal-06
10 Ford, Jacoby	WR	5-9	190	4	Clemson	FA-15	D4-Oak-10
19 Gates, Clyde	WR	6-0	197	3	Abilene Christian	FA-15	D4-Mia-11
15 Hunter, Justin	WR	6-4	203	2	Tennessee	D2-13	D2-Ten-13
18 Nicks, Hakeem	WR	6-1	208	6	North Carolina	FA-Ind-15	D1-NYG-09
83 Richardson, Rico	WR	6-1	185	1	Jackson State	FA-14	FA-KC-13
88 Stevens, Craig	TE	6-3	263	7	California	D3-08	D3-Ten-08
81 Stewart, Josh	WR	5-10	178	1	Oklahoma State	FA-14	FA-Ten-14
84 Thompson, Taylor	TE	6-6	268	3	SMU	D5-12	D5-Ten-12
82 Walker, Delanie	TE	6-0	248	9	Central Missouri	FA-SF-13	D6a-SF-06
13 Wright, Kendall	WR	5-10	191	3	Baylor	D1-12	D1-Ten-12

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
76 Bell, Byron	T	6-5	340	4	New Mexico	FA-Car-15	FA-Car-11
61 Ikard, Gabe	C	6-4	304	1	Oklahoma	FA-14	FA-Ten-14
75 Jones, Terren	T	6-7	341	2	Alabama State	FA-14	FA-Atl-13
67 Levitre, Andy	G	6-2	303	6	Oregon State	FA-Buf-13	D2b-Buf-09
77 Lewan, Taylor	T	6-7	309	1	Michigan	D1-14	D1-Ten-14
64 McCray, Justin	G	6-3	321	1	UCF	FA-14	FA-Ten-14
79 Meredith, Jamon	T	6-5	312	5	South Carolina	FA-14	D5-GB-09
73 Poehls, Will	T	6-8	334	1	Montana	FA-14	FA-Ten-14
62 Schwenke, Brian	C	6-3	318	2	California	D4-13	D4-Ten-13
68 Stingily, Byron	T	6-5	318	4	Louisville	D6-11	D6-Ten-11
70 Warmack, Chance	G	6-2	323	2	Alabama	D1-13	D1-Ten-13

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
99 Casey, Jurrell	DE	6-1	305	4	USC	D3-11	D3-Ten-11
94 Hill, Sammie	NT	6-4	328	6	Stillman	FA-Det-13	D4-Det-09
90 Jones, DaQuan	DL	6-4	322	1	Penn State	D4a-14	D4a-Ten-14
97 Klug, Karl	DL	6-3	278	4	Iowa	D5-11	D5-Ten-11
93 Martin, Mike	DL	6-1	298	3	Michigan	D3-12	D3-Ten-12
92 Pitoitua, Ropati	DE	6-8	298	5	Washington State	FA-KC-13	FA-NYJ-09
96 Woods, Al	DL	6-4	307	5	LSU	FA-Pit-14	D4-NO-10

LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
51 Askew, Nate	LB	6-4	235	1	Texas A&M	FA-14	FA-TB-14
55 Brown, Zach	LB	6-1	248	3	North Carolina	D2-12	D2-Ten-12
58 Burnett, Kaelin	OLB	6-4	240	3	Nevada	FA-14	FA-Oak-12
50 Gooden, Zaviar	LB	6-1	231	2	Missouri	D3b-13	D3b-Ten-13
52 Massaquoi, Jonathan	OLB	6-2	264	3	Troy	W-Atl-15	D5b-Atl-12
56 Moch, Dontay	OLB	6-2	257	3	Nevada	FA-14	D3-Cin-11
91 Morgan, Derrick	OLB	6-3	261	5	Georgia Tech	D1-10	D1-Ten-10
98 Orakpo, Brian	LB	6-4	257	6	Texas	FA-Was-15	D1-Was-09
47 Smallwood, Yawin	LB	6-4	236	1	Connecticut	FA-14	D7-Atl-14
57 Staples, Justin	LB	6-4	245	1	Illinois	FA-14	FA-Cle-13
49 Sutton, Chaz	OLB	6-5	263	1	South Carolina	FA-14	FA-TB-14
54 Williamson, Avery	LB	6-1	246	1	Kentucky	D5-14	D5-Ten-14
95 Wimbley, Kamerion	OLB	6-4	258	9	Florida State	FA-12	D1-Cle-06
59 Woodyard, Wesley	LB	6-0	233	7	Kentucky	FA-Den-14	FA-Den-08

DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
29 Cox, Perrish	CB	6-0	190	4	Oklahoma State	FA-SF-15	D5-Den-10
33 Griffin, Michael	S	6-0	215	8	Texas	D1-07	D1-Ten-07
32 Harris, Brandon	CB	5-10	189	4	Miami	W-Hou-14	D2-Hou-11
28 Huff, Marqueston	DB	5-11	196	1	Wyoming	D4b-14	D4b-Ten-14
30 McCourty, Jason	CB	6-0	193	6	Rutgers	D6a-09	D6a-Ten-09
Searcy, Da'Norris	S	5-11	207	4	North Carolina	FA-Buf-15	D4a-Buf-11
24 Sensabaugh, Coty	CB	5-11	187	3	Clemson	D4-12	D4-Ten-12
39 Stafford, Daimion	S	6-1	218	2	Nebraska	D7-13	D7-Ten-13
35 Thomas, Jemea	DB	5-10	195	1	Georgia Tech	FA-14	D6-NE-14
36 Wooten, Khalid	DB	5-11	212	1	Nevada	D6-13	D6-Ten-13
25 Wreh-Wilson, Blidi	CB	6-1	198	2	Connecticut	D3a-13	D3a-Ten-13

SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
48 Brinkley, Beau	LS	6-4	248	3	Missouri	FA-12	FA-Ten-12
6 Kern, Brett	P	6-2	214	7	Toledo	W-Den-09	FA-Den-08
4 Succop, Ryan	K	6-2	218	6	South Carolina	FA-14	D7-KC-09

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	13	Kendall Wright
	83	Harry Douglas
WR	15	Justin Hunter
		Dorial Green-Beckham (R)
LT	77	Taylor Lewan
	79	Jamon Meredith
LG	67	Andy Levitre
	64	Justin McCray
C	62	Brian Schwenke
	61	Gabe Ikard
RG	70	Chance Warmack
	64	Justin McCray
RT		Jeremiah Poutasi (R)
	76	Byron Bell
TE	82	Delanie Walker
	80	Anthony Fasano
TE	88	Craig Stevens
	84	Taylor Thompson
QB	8	Marcus Mariota (R)
	7	Zach Mettenberger
RB	20	Bishop Sankey
		David Cobb (R)

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	92	Ropati Pitoitua
	97	Karl Klug
NT	94	Sammie Hill
	96	Al Woods
DE	99	Jurrell Casey
	90	DaQuan Jones
OLB	91	Derrick Morgan
	52	Jonathan Massaquoi
ILB	54	Avery Williamson
	50	Zaviar Gooden
ILB	55	Zach Brown
	59	Wesley Woodyard
OLB	98	Brian Orakpo
		Deiontrez Mount (R)
CB	30	Jason McCourty
	24	Coty Sensabaugh
CB	29	Perrish Cox
	25	Blidi Wreh-Wilson
SS		Da'Norris Searcy
	39	Daimion Stafford
FS	33	Michael Griffin
	28	Marqueston Huff

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Ryan Succop
P	6	Brett Kern
KR	22	Dexter McCluster
PR	22	Dexter McCluster

SCOUTING THE TITANS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP TENNESSEE "Jake Locker was a free agent but retired unexpectedly, and Zach Mettenberger went 0–6 before going down with a shoulder injury last season, so the Marcus Mariota pick really makes sense. ... Bishop Sankey was disappointing as a rookie, but part of his struggles were tied to an underachieving offensive line that should be improved in 2015 with Taylor Lewan firmly entrenched at left tackle, a healthy rebound from Andy Levitre at left guard and Chance Warmack rounding back into shape at right guard. ... Tight end Delanie Walker has more to give with better quarterback play. ... The Titans do not have a legit No. 1 receiver. However, they do have hope for the continued development of Kendall Wright and Justin Hunter, and they drafted Dorial Green-Beckham, who hasn't played since 2013 due to off-field issues. ... Dick LeBeau arrives from Pittsburgh and will orchestrate the defense even though Ray Horton has the coordinator title. ... Defensive end Jurrell Casey can play, and GM Ruston Webster found a keeper at inside linebacker in Avery Williamson last year. ... They should be set in the secondary. ... There is talk of an impending ownership change in league circles, so it's imperative for the Titans to show progress for the Ken Whisenhunt/Ruston Webster administration to continue beyond this season."

2015 SCHEDULE

					2014 NFL RANKINGS			
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	at Tampa Bay	4:25	2-14	292.0 (30)	368.9 (25)	17.3 (29)	25.6 (25)
2	Sept. 20	at Cleveland	1:00	7-9	324.6 (23)	366.1 (23)	18.7 (27)	21.1 (9)
3	Sept. 27	Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	406.6 (3)	342.7 (11)	28.6 (6)	23.1 (19)
4		BYE						
5	Oct. 1	Buffalo	1:00	9-7	318.5 (26)	312.2 (4)	21.4 (18)	18.1 (4)
6	Oct. 18	Miami	1:00	8-8	350.1 (14)	343.4 (12)	24.3 (11)	23.3 (20)
7	Oct. 25	Atlanta	1:00	6-10	378.2 (8)	398.3 (32)	23.8 (12)	26.1 (27)
8	Nov. 1	at Houston	1:00	9-7	344.6 (17)	348.2 (16)	23.3 (14)	19.2 (7)
9	Nov. 8	at New Orleans	1:00	7-9	411.4 (1)	384.0 (31)	25.1 (9)	26.5 (28)
10	Nov. 15	Carolina	1:00	7-8-1	346.7 (16)	339.8 (10)	21.2 (19)	23.4 (21)
11	Nov. 19	at Jacksonville (Thu.)	8:25	3-13	289.6 (31)	370.8 (26)	15.6 (32)	25.8 (26)
12	Nov. 29	Oakland	1:00	3-13	282.2 (32)	357.6 (21)	15.8 (31)	28.3 (32)
13	Dec. 6	Jacksonville	1:00	3-13	289.6 (31)	370.8 (26)	15.6 (32)	25.8 (26)
14	Dec. 13	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	326.6 (22)	327.2 (6)	17.7 (28)	25.1 (24)
15	Dec. 20	at New England	1:00	12-4	365.5 (11)	344.1 (13)	29.3 (4)	19.6 (8)
16	Dec. 27	Houston	1:00	9-7	344.6 (17)	348.2 (16)	23.3 (14)	19.2 (7)
17	Jan. 3	at Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	406.6 (3)	342.7 (11)	28.6 (6)	23.1 (19)

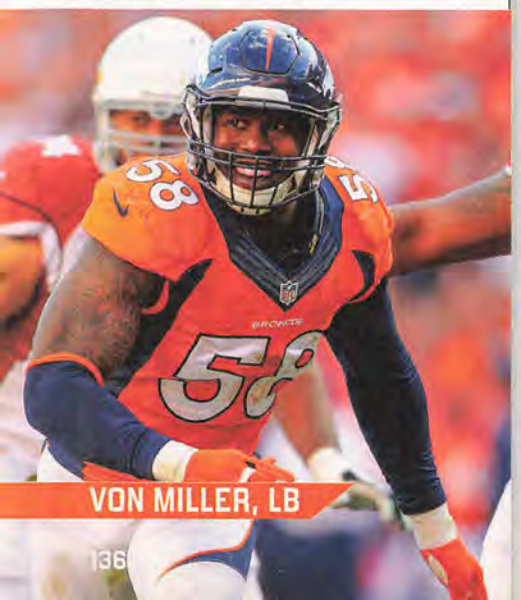
DENVER BRONCOS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Gary Kubiak
RECORD WITH TEAM: 0–0
CAREER RECORD: 61–64
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Rick Dennison
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Wade Phillips
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Joe DeCamillis
QUARTERBACKS: Greg Knapp
RUNNING BACKS: Eric Studesville
WIDE RECEIVERS: Tyke Tolbert
TIGHT ENDS: Brian Pariani
OFFENSIVE LINE: Clancy Barone
DEFENSIVE LINE: Bill Kollar
LINEBACKERS: Reggie Herring
OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS: Fred Pagac
SECONDARY: Joe Woods

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs AFC Champion



VON MILLER, LB

1 AFC WEST FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER: Pat Bowlen
PRESIDENT/CEO: Joe Ellis
EXECUTIVE VP OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS/GM: John Elway
DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION: Mike Sullivan
STADIUM: Sports Authority Field at Mile High (76,125)
SURFACE: Desso Grassmaster Hybrid Grass
WEBSITE: www.denverbroncos.com
TICKETS: 720-258-3333
TRAINING CAMP: Paul D. Bowlen Memorial Centre (Englewood, Colo.)

The Broncos, coming off a 12-win season and their fourth consecutive AFC West title, may well win another 12 games and another AFC West title. But then, in the Mile High City, where the local NFL team's standards rest considerably higher than the city limits, it isn't about the regular season. And it isn't about the playoffs, either. It's about winning a Super Bowl, period, end of conversation. Question is, are the Broncos any closer to doing it this season than they were in their three previous seasons with Peyton Manning under center? By all accounts, they're not as talented as years past, with a handful of impact players having left via free agency. But general manager John Elway, having cleaned house after last year's one-and-done fiasco in January, is hopeful that the new coaching staff, headlined by head coach Gary Kubiak and defensive coordinator Wade Phillips, can give the 39-year-old Manning one last chance at feeling the confetti.

OFFENSE The media has had a field day speculating how Manning will fare in Kubiak's zone-blocking, run-oriented offense. While only time will tell how good a fit the two will be for each other, this much is safe to say: Manning will go into this season considerably healthier than he ended the last one. He was altogether ordinary in the latter stages of the 2014 season, throwing 17 touchdown passes and 12 interceptions in the final nine regular-season games, leading to speculation that Father Time was fast approaching in his rear-view mirror. Four words: Don't count on it. Manning's problems were more a function of a tear in his right quadriceps and a decimated offensive line that gave him little time to throw. Manning, in fact, agreed to return for a fourth season only after receiving assurances that the issues on the offensive line would be addressed.

But even assuming that the offensive line will be improved, Manning doesn't figure to put up the same type of passing numbers that long ago assured him a bronze bust in Canton. Kubiak has a long history of producing huge numbers in the running game, with relatively unheralded talents such as Terrell Davis, Mike Anderson and Arian Foster becoming fantasy league studs in his offense. Now it's C.J. Anderson's turn to see how productive he can be behind Kubiak's zone-blocking schemes. Anderson, undrafted out of Cal in 2013, began last season as a blip on the depth chart and finished it in the Pro Bowl. After logging 17 carries in the Broncos' first seven games, he rolled for 648 yards in the final six.

Not that Manning won't remain the focal point of the offense. He threw 39 touchdown passes in 2014 and could approach that number again. He'll have to do it without tight end Julius Thomas, who wasn't presented with a serious contract offer after catching 12 touchdown passes in 2014. Thomas signed with Jacksonville, leaving newcomer Owen Daniels as the main pass-catching threat at tight end. Then there's wide receiver Demaryius Thomas, a mercurial talent who refused to attend the team's offseason workouts or Manning's annual passing camp at Duke University after being slapped with the franchise tag. If you're looking for an X-factor, there you have it. If the two sides can't agree on a long-term contract, Thomas' attitude issues could be a divisive factor in what could be Manning's final NFL season. No such issues are in play with wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders, who clicked with Manning from the earliest moments of 2014. Sanders caught 101 balls, 10 fewer than Thomas.

If Kubiak and his staff can revamp the offensive line, and if Thomas buys in, there's no reason to believe the Broncos won't have one of the league's most lethal offenses.

DEFENSE Phillips, by his own admission, was "a lousy head coach" in his previous life. But if there were a Hall of Fame for assistant coaches, the 68-year-old Phillips would be a lock. The man has a way of making rock stars out of pass rushers, having worked with the likes of Reggie White, DeMarcus Ware, Rickey Jackson and J.J. Watt. The Broncos' pass rush was sporadic last season, but with Phillips and No. 1 draft choice Shane Ray in the equation, that figures to change. Ware racked up 60.5 sacks in four seasons while playing in Phillips' 3-4 scheme in Dallas. He should be good for double digits again coming off the corner opposite Von Miller, who needs a big season to solidify his case for a possible $100-million contract.

Ray will be in the mix mostly as a nickel pass rusher, but his role could expand as the season wears on. The defensive line has its share of question marks, particular on the nose, where 2013 first-rounder Sylvester Williams, a prototypical 4-3 tackle, has been challenged by the coaches to step up — or else. The Broncos' blueprint calls for Bill Kollar, one of most respected defensive line coaches in the business, to solidify things up front.

Manning, Cheerleader: Peter Brouillet; Miller: Tim Umphrey

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

HOMECOMING PARADE Only time will tell if the Broncos' season turns out special, but this much is clear before the first snap of 2015: Several of the new coaches view Denver as a special situation. Gary Kubiak arrived in Denver in 1983 as an eighth-round draft choice and, after a nine-year playing career, served as Mike Shanahan's offensive coordinator from 1995-2005. New offensive coordinator Rick Dennison also played and coached for the Broncos, and defensive coordinator Wade Phillips got his first opportunity as an NFL head coach in Denver in 1993. Special teams coordinator Joe DeCamillis ranks as one of the league's top assistants, but he was barely out of college back in the day when he joined father-in-law Dan Reeves' Broncos staff. Says DeCamillis, "I wouldn't call it a family reunion. I'd call it getting to a place where you're comfortable and you know the organization. It's a dream come true for me."

WADE IN THE SHADE At 68, Phillips could have done what his dad, Bum Phillips, did back in the day: Ride off into the Texas sunset after a distinguished career. Instead, Phillips decided to join Kubiak's staff in Denver. Phillips coached with Kubiak in Houston and was the Broncos' defensive coordinator in 1989 when Kubiak was the Broncos' backup quarterback. Phillips went on to become the Broncos' head coach from 1993-94. Phillips on returning to Denver a quarter-century after arriving as the defensive coordinator: "It's great to be back. We had six great years here. I said it when I was here, this is a great town because they expect the team to win. The fans here, they demand a lot, they expect a lot, but I think it helps our team."

SUPER STUPOR After losing to the Seahawks in the Super Bowl after the 2013 season, the Broncos were one and done in last year's playoffs. No surprise there. No team since the 1972 Dolphins has won the NFL championship the year after losing the Super Bowl. And no team has made it back after losing the game since the '93 Bills.

MONEY MAN Peyton Manning took a $4 million pay cut to return for what could be his farewell tour. So what did he do in the aftermath of losing all that money? He donated $3 million to the University of Tennessee, where he arrived as a freshman in 1994. Don't pass the hat for No. 18. Manning is the face of countless commercials and has 20-plus Papa John's pizza stores in his portfolio. Oh, and did we mention he has been paid more than any other player in NFL history? Consider this: Manning, the No. 1 pick in the 1998 draft, has pocketed $80 million more than Tom Brady, a lowly sixth-rounder in 2000 after his days at the University of Michigan.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
TE	Owen Daniels	Baltimore
C	Gino Gradkowski	Baltimore
DE	Antonio Smith	Houston
G	Shelley Smith	Houston
S	Darian Stewart	Baltimore
DE	Vance Walker	Philadelphia

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
DT	Terrance Knighton	Washington
G	Orlando Franklin	San Diego
LB	Nate Irving	Indianapolis
G/C	Will Montgomery	Chicago
S	Rahim Moore	Houston
TE	Julius Thomas	Jacksonville

PEYTON MANNING, QB

2014 RESULTS (12-4)

Sept. 7	Indianapolis	W	31-24
Sept. 14	Kansas City	W	24-17
Sept. 21	at Seattle (ot)	L	20-26
Oct. 5	Arizona	W	41-20
Oct. 12	at N.Y. Jets	W	31-17
Oct. 19	San Francisco	W	42-17
Oct. 23	San Diego	W	35-21
Nov. 2	at New England	L	21-43
Nov. 9	at Oakland	W	41-17
Nov. 16	at St. Louis	L	7-22
Nov. 23	Miami	W	39-36
Nov. 30	at Kansas City	W	29-16
Dec. 7	Buffalo	W	24-17
Dec. 14	at San Diego	W	22-10
Dec. 22	at Cincinnati	L	28-37
Dec. 28	Oakland	W	47-14
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 11	Indianapolis	L	13-24

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

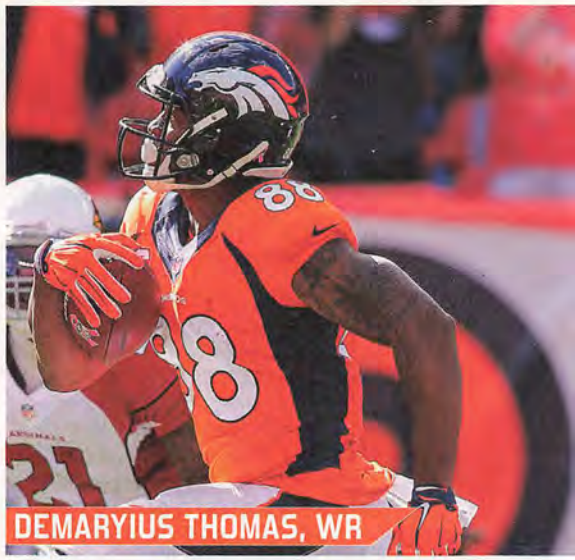
PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Peyton Manning	597	395	4,727	39	15
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
C.J. Anderson	179	849	4.7	8	
Ronnie Hillman	106	434	4.1	3	
Montee Ball	55	172	3.1	1	
Juwan Thompson	54	272	5.0	3	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Demaryius Thomas	111	1,619	14.6	11	
Emmanuel Sanders	101	1,404	13.9	9	
Wes Welker	49	464	9.5	2	
Julius Thomas	43	489	11.4	12	

KICKING: Brandon McManus, 9-13 FGs, 41-41 PATs, 68 points
TACKLES: Brandon Marshall, 113; T.J. Ward, 74
SACKS: Von Miller, 14.0; DeMarcus Ware, 10.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Aqib Talib, 4; Rahim Moore, 4

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	402.9	4	3
Rushing	111.6	15	8
Passing	291.3	4	2
Scoring	30.1	2	1
Third Down %	44.1	8	4
Punt Returns	7.2	T20	9
Kick Returns	25.1	8	6
TEAM DEFENSE	**Stat**	**NFL Rank**	**AFC Rank**
Total	305.2	3	1
Rushing	79.8	2	1
Passing	225.4	9	6
Scoring	22.1	T16	9
Interceptions	18	T7	5
Sacks	41	T9	T6
Turnover Differential	+5	T11	5

All in all, Phillips and his staff have a lot of nice pieces with which to work, including a handful of Pro Bowlers. "This is probably the best situation defensively that I've come into," says Phillips. The starting corners, Aqib Talib and Chris Harris, form one of the top tandems in the business, and Bradley Roby, the 2014 first-rounder, had an exceptional rookie season. While having three quality corners is a basic necessity for a Super Bowl contender in today's NFL, it's conceivable that Roby could shift to free safety after the free-agent departure of Rahim Moore. Add hard-hitting safety T.J. Ward to the mix, and the Broncos' secondary should be among the best in the business. If the pass rush improves as Phillips' history suggests it will, the Broncos could improve significantly over last season's 25 forced turnovers, which tied for 13th in the league.


DEMARYIUS THOMAS, WR

SPECIALISTS The Broncos are one of the few NFL teams that can afford to burn two roster spots on kickers. Veteran Connor Barth, who made 15-of-16 field-goal attempts in 2014, doesn't have the leg to consistently produce touchbacks in the altitude, so Brandon McManus figures to handle kickoffs. Punter Britton Colquitt is coming off a mediocre season, but his roster spot is all but guaranteed. The coaches will consider a cast of seemingly thousands as return candidates, with Sanders a possibility as a punt returner and Omar Bolden and Andre Caldwell in the picture as kickoff returners. Elway and his staff didn't draft a college player with a significant history in the return game, but a handful of rookies will get a look. Yes, there are a number of candidates to sift through, but look for new special-teams coordinator Joe DeCamillis to get the most out of the return game.

FINAL ANALYSIS For a team coming off a Super Bowl appearance, there was a lot of unrest surrounding the 2014 Broncos. Sure enough, when they came up short in the playoffs, Elway didn't waste any time blowing up the coaching staff. The presence of Kubiak and a veteran staff represents a breath of fresh air for the players, who are anxious to buy in to the new approach. Assuming Manning stays healthy, there's no reason to believe the Broncos won't win the West and be a factor in the playoffs. To win the Super Bowl, though, they'll need to be on a roll, not an emotional downswing as they were last season, when the playoffs arrive.

BRONCOS IN THE DRAFT

B+

Tim Umphrey

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Shane Ray	OLB	6-3	245	Missouri
2.	Ty Sambrailo	OT	6-6	311	Colorado State
3.	Jeff Heuerman	TE	6-5	255	Ohio State
4.	Max Garcia	OL	6-4	309	Florida
5.	Lorenzo Doss	CB	5-10	182	Tulane
6.	Darius Kilgo	NT	6-3	319	Maryland
7.	Trevor Siemian	QB	6-2	212	Northwestern
7.	Taurean Nixon	CB	6-0	183	Tulane
7.	Josh Furman	S	6-2	202	Oklahoma State

The Broncos entered the draft with glaring needs on the offensive line and at safety. So what did they address? The pass rush, of course. When Shane Ray was cited for marijuana possession the week of the draft, the Broncos' front office immediately went to work. John Elway spoke at length with Ray and came away convinced that, if Ray began to slide, the Broncos should try to trade up to get him. His presence gives the Broncos a potentially elite pass rusher to keep Von Miller and DeMarcus Ware fresh. Ty Sambrailo could supplant Chris Clark at right tackle, and fourth-rounder Max Garcia could emerge as the starter at center. Garcia will enter training camp as a swing man between guard and center, but the center job is up for grabs. The Broncos believe tight end Jeff Heuerman can be a weapon in the passing game, but the Ohio State product tore his ACL in a rookie minicamp in May and will miss his rookie season.

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
2	Dysert, Zac	QB	6-3	221	2	Miami (OH)	D7-13	D7-Den-13
18	Manning, Peyton	QB	6-5	230	17	Tennessee	FA-Ind-12	D1-Ind-98
17	Osweiler, Brock	QB	6-8	240	3	Arizona State	D2b-12	D2b-Den-12
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
22	Anderson, C.J.	RB	5-8	224	2	California	FA-13	FA-Den-13
28	Ball, Montee	RB	5-10	215	2	Wisconsin	D2-13	D2-Den-13
35	Bibbs, Kapri	RB	5-11	203	1	Colorado State	FA-14	FA-Den-14
23	Hillman, Ronnie	RB	5-10	195	3	San Diego State	D3-12	D3-Den-12
27	Stewart, Jeremy	RB	5-11	215	3	Stanford	FA-14	FA-Phi-12
40	Thompson, Juwan	RB	5-11	225	1	Duke	FA-14	FA-Den-14
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
19	Burse, Isaiah	WR	5-10	187	1	Fresno State	FA-14	FA-Den-14
12	Caldwell, Andre	WR	6-0	200	7	Florida	FA-Cin-12	D3b-Cin-08
80	Casey, James	TE	6-3	240	6	Rice	FA-Phi-15	D5-Hou-09
81	Daniels, Owen	TE	6-3	245	10	Wisconsin	FA-Bal-15	D4-Hou-06
42	Duncan, Joe Don	TE	6-3	267	0	Dixie State	FA-15	FA-Den-15
16	Fowler, Bennie	WR	6-1	212	1	Michigan State	FA-14	FA-Den-14
85	Green, Virgil	TE	6-5	255	4	Nevada	D7a-11	D7a-Den-11
86	Jones, Dominique	TE	6-3	270	3	Shepherd	FA-14	FA-Ind-12
14	Latimer, Cody	WR	6-2	215	1	Indiana	D2-14	D2-Den-14
11	Norwood, Jordan	WR	5-11	180	5	Penn State	FA-14	FA-Cle-09
13	Palmer, Nathan	WR	5-11	198	2	Northern Illinois	FA-14	FA-SF-12
10	Sanders, Emmanuel	WR	5-11	180	5	SMU	FA-Pit-14	D3-Pit-10
88	Thomas, Demaryius	WR	6-3	229	5	Georgia Tech	D1a-10	D1a-Den-10
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
78	Clady, Ryan	T	6-6	315	7	Boise State	D1-08	D1-Den-08
75	Clark, Chris	T	6-5	305	6	Southern Miss	W-Min-10	FA-TB-08
63	Garland, Ben	G	6-5	308	1	Air Force	FA-10	FA-Den-10
77	Gradkowski, Gino	C/G	6-3	300	3	Delaware	T-Bal-15	D4a-Bal-12
67	Halapio, Jon	G	6-3	320	1	Florida State	FA-14	D6-NE-14
61	Paradis, Matt	C	6-3	300	1	Boise State	D6-14	D6-Den-14
79	Schofield, Michael	T	6-6	301	1	Michigan	D3-14	D3-Den-14
64	Smith, Shelley	G	6-4	310	5	Colorado State	FA-Mia-15	D6-Hou-10
65	Vasquez, Louis	G	6-5	335	6	Texas Tech	FA-SD-13	D3-SD-09
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
91	Anunike, Kenny	DE	6-5	260	1	Duke	FA-14	FA-Den-14
76	Austin Jr., Marvin	DT	6-2	312	4	North Carolina	FA-14	D2-NYG-11
97	Jackson, Malik	DE	6-5	293	3	Tennessee	D5-12	D5-Den-12
99	Rivers, Gerald	DE	6-2	250	2	Ole Miss	FA-14	FA-StL-13
90	Smith, Antonio	DL	6-3	290	10	Oklahoma State	FA-Oak-15	D5-Ari-04
93	Smith, Quanterus	DE	6-5	255	2	Western Kentucky	D5a-13	D5a-Den-13
96	Walker, Vance	DE	6-2	305	6	Georgia Tech	FA-KC-15	D7-Atl-09
92	Williams, Sylvester	DT	6-2	313	2	North Carolina	D1-13	D1-Den-13
95	Wolfe, Derek	DE	6-5	285	3	Cincinnati	D2a-12	D2a-Den-12
90	Youboty, John	DE	6-4	258	1	Temple	FA-13	FA-Den-13
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
56	Barrett, Shaquil	LB	6-2	250	1	Colorado State	FA-14	FA-Den-14
57	Barrow, Lamin	LB	6-1	237	1	LSU	D5-14	D5-Den-14
51	Davis, Todd	LB	6-1	230	1	Sacramento State	W-NO-14	FA-NO-14
53	Johnson, Steven	LB	6-1	237	3	Kansas	FA-12	FA-Den-12
54	Marshall, Brandon	LB	6-1	250	3	Nevada	FA-13	D5-Jac-12
55	McCray, Lerentee	LB	6-3	249	2	Florida	FA-13	FA-Den-13
58	Miller, Von	LB	6-3	250	4	Texas A&M	D1-11	D1-Den-11
52	Nelson, Corey	LB	6-1	226	1	Oklahoma	D7-14	D7-Den-14
59	Trevathan, Danny	LB	6-1	240	3	Kentucky	D6-12	D6-Den-12
50	Walker, Reggie	LB	6-0	244	6	Kansas State	FA-SD-15	FA-Ari-09
94	Ware, DeMarcus	LB	6-4	258	10	Troy	FA-Dal-14	D1a-Dal-05
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
31	Bolden, Omar	S	5-10	195	3	Arizona State	D4a-12	D4a-Den-12
30	Bruton Jr., David	S	6-2	217	6	Notre Dame	D4a-09	D4a-Den-09
20	Bush, Josh	S	5-11	205	3	Wake Forest	FA-14	D6-NYJ-12
32	Carter, Tony	CB	5-9	175	6	Florida State	FA-11	FA-Den-09
25	Harris Jr., Chris	CB	5-10	199	3	Kansas	FA-11	FA-Den-11
29	Roby, Bradley	CB	5-11	194	1	Ohio State	D1-14	D1-Den-14
26	Stewart, Darian	S	5-11	214	5	South Carolina	FA-Bal-15	FA-StL-10
21	Talib, Aqib	CB	6-1	205	7	Kansas	FA-NE-14	D1-TB-08
43	Ward, T.J.	S	5-10	200	5	Oregon	FA-Cle-14	D2a-Cle-10
36	Webster, Kayvon	CB	5-11	198	2	South Florida	D3-13	D3-Den-13
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
8	McManus, Brandon	K	6-3	201	1	Temple	T-NYG-14	FA-Ind-13
1	Barth, Connor	K	5-11	200	7	North Carolina	FA-14	FA-KC-08
46	Brewer, Aaron	LS	6-5	230	3	San Diego State	FA-12	FA-Den-12
4	Colquitt, Britton	P	6-3	205	6	Tennessee	FA-09	FA-Den-09
9	Schmitz, Karl	P	6-4	200	0	Jacksonville	FA-15	FA-Den-15

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	88	Demaryius Thomas
	12	Andre Caldwell
WR	10	Emmanuel Sanders
	11	Jordan Norwood
WR	14	Cody Latimer
	12	Andre Caldwell
LT	78	Ryan Clady
	79	Michael Schofield
LG	64	Shelley Smith
	63	Ben Garland
C	77	Gino Gradkowski
	61	Matt Paradis
RG	65	Louis Vasquez
	73	Max Garcia (R)
RT	75	Chris Clark
	74	Ty Sambrailo (R)
TE	81	Owen Daniels
	85	Virgil Green
QB	18	Peyton Manning
	17	Brock Osweiler
RB	22	C.J. Anderson
	28	Montee Ball

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	95	Derek Wolfe
	96	Vance Walker
NT	92	Sylvester Williams
	76	Marvin Austin
DE	97	Malik Jackson
	90	Antonio Smith
OLB	58	Von Miller
	55	Lerentee McCray
ILB	54	Brandon Marshall
	51	Todd Davis
ILB	59	Danny Trevathan
	57	Lamin Barrow
OLB	94	DeMarcus Ware
	56	Shane Ray (R)
CB	21	Aqib Talib
	29	Bradley Roby
CB	25	Chris Harris
	36	Kayvon Webster
SS	43	T.J. Ward
	30	David Bruton
FS	26	Darian Stewart
	31	Omar Bolden

SPECIALISTS

K	1	Connor Barth
P	4	Britton Colquitt
KR	12	Andre Caldwell
PR	10	Emmanuel Sanders

SCOUTING THE BRONCOS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP DENVER "Peyton Manning returns for what might be his last season, although at 39, he feels that a high level of play is still attainable. ... If it is, it will likely be because Gary Kubiak's emphasis on the run game and play-action will take some of the load off the future Hall of Famer. ... Kubiak takes over for John Fox, who flamed out in the postseason for the third year in a row. ... Wide receiver Demaryius Thomas was retained under the franchise tag. He is a supremely talented player that has prospered under Manning's guidance. ... Emmanuel Sanders filled the slot role well in 2014, but how much will that change under Kubiak? ... Cody Latimer must take a big step forward after catching only two passes as a rookie. ... The offensive line is sort of ordinary, but they get by because the QB simply doesn't hold onto the football. ... Left tackle Ryan Clady is clearly their best lineman, but the rest are just guys. ... On defense, they are set up front with Sylvester Williams, Derek Wolfe and Malik Jackson in their Base 3-4. ... Von Miller, DeMarcus Ware and first-round draft pick Shane Ray will form one of the best pass-rushing trios in all of football. ... At safety, T.J. Ward always brings the right kind of demeanor, and Darian Stewart was signed away from the Ravens during free agency."

2015 SCHEDULE

Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	2014 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	Baltimore	4:25	10-6	364.9 (12)	336.9 (8)	25.6 (8)	18.9 (6)
2	Sept. 17	at Kansas City (Thu.)	8:25	9-7	318.8 (25)	330.5 (7)	22.1 (16)	17.6 (3)
3	Sept. 27	at Detroit	8:30	11-5	340.8 (19)	300.9 (2)	20.1 (22)	17.6 (2)
4	Oct. 4	Minnesota	4:25	7-9	315.5 (27)	344.7 (14)	20.3 (21)	21.4 (11)
5	Oct. 11	at Oakland	4:25	3-13	282.2 (32)	357.6 (21)	15.8 (31)	28.3 (32)
6	Oct. 18	at Cleveland	1:00	7-9	324.6 (23)	366.1 (23)	18.7 (27)	21.1 (9)
7		BYE						
8	Nov. 1	Green Bay	8:30	12-4	386.1 (6)	346.4 (15)	30.4 (1)	21.8 (13)
9	Nov. 8	at Indianapolis	4:25	11-5	406.6 (3)	342.7 (11)	28.6 (6)	23.1 (19)
10	Nov. 15	Kansas City	4:25	9-7	318.8 (25)	330.5 (7)	22.1 (16)	17.6 (3)
11	Nov. 22	at Chicago	1:00	5-11	327.1 (21)	377.1 (30)	19.9 (23)	27.6 (31)
12	Nov. 29	New England	8:30	12-4	365.5 (11)	344.1 (13)	29.3 (4)	19.6 (8)
13	Dec. 6	at San Diego	4:05	9-7	341.6 (18)	338.3 (9)	21.8 (17)	21.8 (13)
14	Dec. 13	Oakland	4:05	3-13	282.2 (32)	357.6 (21)	15.8 (31)	28.3 (32)
15	Dec. 20	at Pittsburgh	4:25	11-5	411.1 (2)	353.4 (18)	27.3 (7)	23.0 (18)
16	Dec. 28	Cincinnati (Mon.)	8:30	10-5-1	348.0 (15)	359.3 (22)	22.8 (15)	21.5 (12)
17	Jan. 3	San Diego	4:25	9-7	341.6 (18)	338.3 (9)	21.8 (17)	21.8 (13)

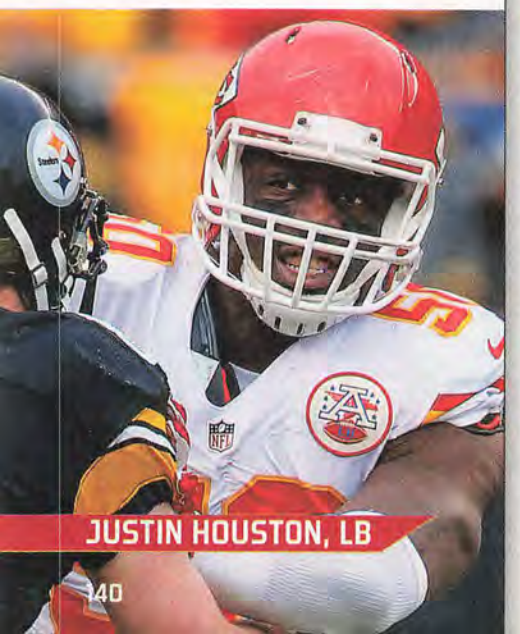
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Andy Reid
RECORD WITH TEAM: 20–12
CAREER RECORD: 150–105–1
ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/WIDE RECEIVERS: David Culley
SPREAD GAME ANALYST/SPECIAL PROJECTS: Brad Childress
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Doug Pederson
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Bob Sutton
SPECIAL TEAMS: Dave Toub
QUARTERBACKS: Matt Nagy
RUNNING BACKS: Eric Bieniemy
TIGHT ENDS: Tom Melvin
OFFENSIVE LINE: Andy Heck
DEFENSIVE LINE: Tommy Brasher
LINEBACKERS: Gary Gibbs
DEFENSIVE BACKS: Emmitt Thomas

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs



JUSTIN HOUSTON, LB

2 AFC WEST FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN/CEO: Clark Hunt
PRESIDENT: Mark Donovan
GENERAL MANAGER: John Dorsey
DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION: Trip MacCracken
STADIUM: Arrowhead Stadium (76,416)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.kcchiefs.com
TICKETS: 816-920-9300
TRAINING CAMP: Missouri Western State University (St. Joseph, Mo.)

The only team with wins over both the AFC and NFC champions on its résumé in 2014? That would be Andy Reid's Kansas City Chiefs, who, despite a confounding slew of injuries and suspensions, tended to play up — or down — to just about every opponent last fall. Lose to Tennessee at home, then crush New England; top Miami and Buffalo on the road, then lose at Oakland. Which explains the end result: A roller-coaster, schizophrenic 9–7 campaign.

A healthy Jamaal Charles would get 2015 off on the right foot. As would a happy Justin Houston, who put together perhaps the quietest 22-sack season — a half-sack short of Michael Strahan's NFL record — in modern NFL history, a run for the ages overshadowed by the monster campaign of J.J. Watt. But a slate that features just seven true home games — a Nov. 1 date with Detroit is being played in London — only makes a challenging schedule that much tougher to navigate.

OFFENSE Charles says he was never more "frustrated" as a pro than last fall, but the Pro Bowl back still accounted for 1,324 yards, averaged 5.0 yards per carry and totaled 14 touchdowns — nine rushing — on one good leg. Not much was done to upgrade the position behind backup Knile Davis, who could see more work to limit the wear and tear on Charles.

Quarterback Alex Smith signed a big-money extension before the start of the regular season that set him within his peers but also put him the squarely in the sights of some Chiefs fans who see that cash as better splashed elsewhere. Still one of the smarter and most accurate (65.3 percent completion rate in 2014) passers in the game, Smith has, on paper, as many toys to play with as he's ever had in Kansas City. Chase Daniel is gaining street cred as one of the NFL's top backups, and he's paid like it ($3.75 million base salary in 2015).

The Chiefs became the first team since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger to go an entire regular season without a touchdown thrown to a wideout. Jeremy Maclin, signed away from Philadelphia to replace aging Dwayne Bowe, is expected to change all that, and quickly. Second-year target Albert Wilson found his groove over the final third of 2014; incoming draftee Chris Conley has crazy tools; and veteran Jason Avant, a former teammate of Maclin's and a longtime Reid protégé, knows this offense back to front. Tight end Travis Kelce (862 receiving yards, five touchdowns) was a revelation in his first full active season; if he keeps his temper and ball security in check, Kelce could be the best tight end to put on a Chiefs uniform since Tony Gonzalez was traded out of town in 2009.

A succession of injuries and Eric Fisher's bum shoulder forced general manager John Dorsey to piece together a makeshift offensive line last fall, and it showed, as the total sacks allowed jumped from 41 to 49 while Smith spent many Sundays running for his life. The addition of Ben Grubbs (Saints) and Paul Fanaika (Cardinals) should stabilize the interior blocking, but center Rodney Hudson, now with Oakland, could be sorely missed.

DEFENSE Things you can count on: death, taxes and four grinding quarters each week from nose tackle Dontari Poe. The Memphis native led all NFL interior defensive linemen in snaps played for a second straight year, rolling up a career-best six sacks in the process. Poe should benefit from the return of veteran end Mike DeVito, one of two defensive starters to suffer a season-ending Achilles tendon tear in a Week 1. DeVito's injury allowed the club to get longer looks at Allen Bailey (five sacks) and Jaye Howard (one sack) at end in defensive coordinator Bob Sutton's 3-4 scheme. With DeVito and former reserve Mike Catapano reportedly healed up, the Chiefs have strength, depth and flexibility up front.

Stalwart linebacker Derrick Johnson was the other veteran to tear an Achilles in the home opener, and the unit never quite recovered from the loss of its spiritual leader — especially against the run, where the Chiefs seemed to really wear down after early November. Like DeVito, Johnson said in the spring that he felt at least 80 percent of the way back. Even at that he is a more reliable anchor in the middle than super subs Josh Mauga and James-Michael Johnson, special-teams contributors who were forced to carry the rope in No. 56's absence. Mauga was re-signed and is expected to have the inside track and a starting spot, but don't be surprised if rookies Ramik Wilson and D.J. Alexander work their way into specific packages.

Rather than pout over the failure to land a long-term contract, Houston took his grief out on opposing quarterbacks, stringing together a career-best in sacks and affirming his status as one of the most exciting pass rushers in the game. Contract issues still loomed in the spring, though, and the former Georgia star bristled when the Chiefs slapped the franchise tag on him in March, staying away from the start of the voluntary spring OTAs.

Houston, Charles: Bruce Schwartzman; Cheerleader: Margaret Bowles

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

BERRY, BERRY STRONG As of the spring, the Chiefs weren't counting on the quick return of Pro Bowl safety Eric Berry for the fall of 2015 as the defensive standout battles Hodgkin lymphoma. But they aren't necessarily counting him out, either. "Those treatments kind of knock the dog out of you," Andy Reid told reporters before OTAs got underway, "but he's fought through it, and he's working out like a wild man."

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU A journalism major with an interest in broadcasting, new Chiefs wideout Chris Conley also moonlights as an amateur filmmaker. At the University of Georgia, the gifted receiver combined two of the loves of his life when he made a 26-minute "Star Wars" fan film, titled "Retribution" — and even got his college coach, Mark Richt, to appear in it.

FISHER: HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP? Left tackle Eric Fisher, the Chiefs' No. 1 overall pick in 2013, hasn't fulfilled lofty expectations through his first two mostly injury-plagued campaigns. But the former Central Michigan star says he's coming off his first truly healthy winter as an NFL player — his slow return from shoulder surgery showed last fall — and has even taken up something new in training to help his game: boxing. "I think that has really helped my body development," he says. "I couldn't believe the workout you can get from boxing — the hand work and the hand quickness. I really think that brought me a long way."

IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY, DOGG Rookie cornerback Marcus Peters, like new teammate De'Anthony Thomas, is pals with rapper/entertainer Snoop Dogg, who went to Twitter during the NFL Draft to congratulate the former University of Washington star on his pro destination. Peters is also the cousin of Seattle tailback Marshawn Lynch, to whom he says he is related on his father's side of the family. Like Lynch, Peters hails from Oakland.

THIS PLACE IS SO CLEAN! Former GM Scott Pioli was lambasted a few years back when word got out about his obsessiveness over finding a loose candy bar wrapper in a stairwell at the Chiefs' training complex. But you won't find those wrappers lying around anymore — something that new guard Ben Grubbs, acquired in a trade with New Orleans, noticed right away the first time he walked into the facility. "Yeah, you'd be surprised what you come into," Grubbs says. "I think it just shows a lot about you, tells a lot about you if you take care of the things you have and be respectful of the people who clean because they're not here to pick up after you, they're here to be a part of something big. I think that plays a part into the winning mindset."

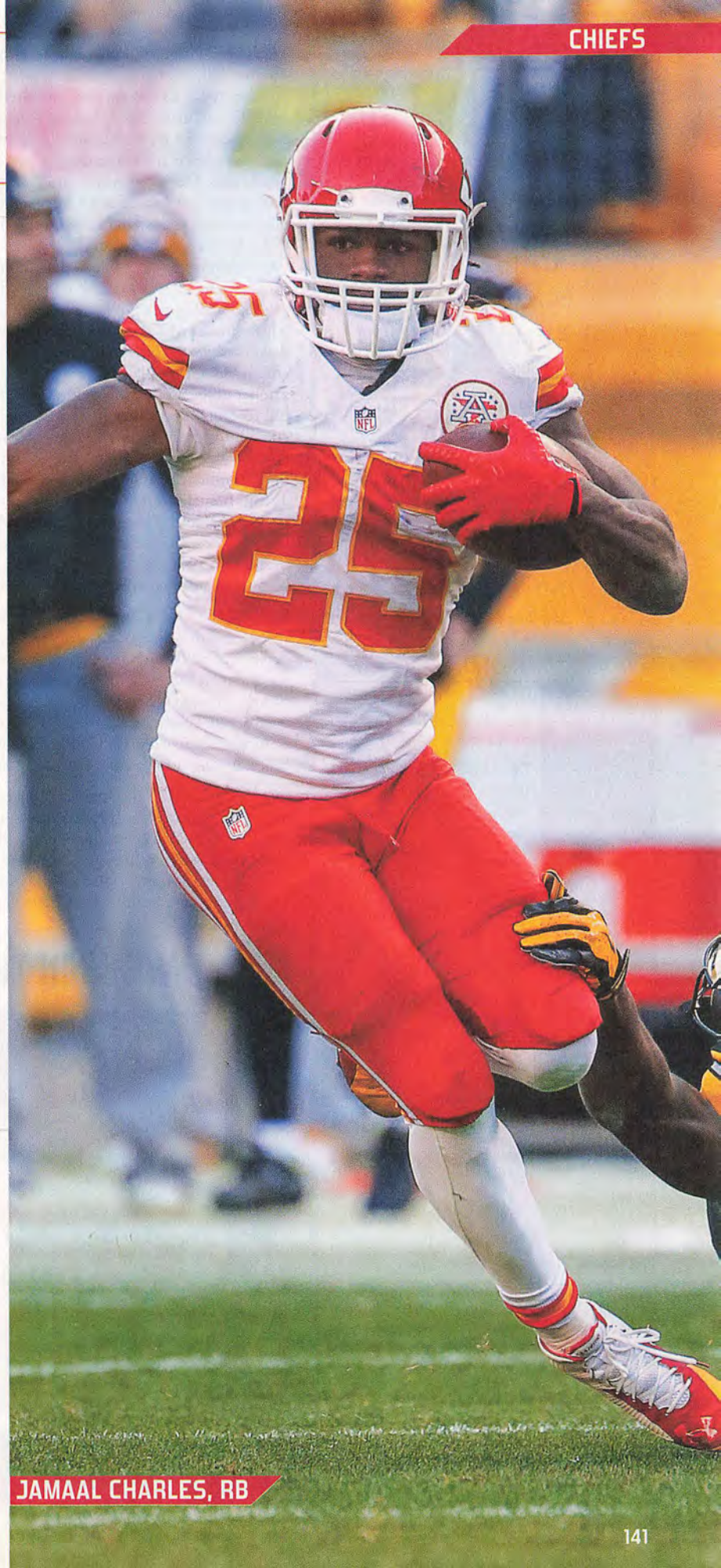
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
S	Tyvon Branch	Oakland
G	Paul Fanaika	Arizona
G	Ben Grubbs	New Orleans
WR	Jeremy Maclin	Philadelphia

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
WR	Dwayne Bowe	Cleveland
TE	Anthony Fasano	Tennessee
OT	Ryan Harris	Free Agent
C	Rodney Hudson	Oakland
OL	Jeff Linkenbach	Miami
DL	Kevin Vickerson	N.Y. Jets



JAMAAL CHARLES, RB

2014 RESULTS (9-7)

Sept. 7	Tennessee	L	10-26
Sept. 14	at Denver	L	17-24
Sept. 21	at Miami	W	34-15
Sept. 29	New England	W	41-14
Oct. 5	at San Francisco	L	17-22
Oct. 19	at San Diego	W	23-20
Oct. 26	St. Louis	W	34-7
Nov. 2	N.Y. Jets	W	24-10
Nov. 9	at Buffalo	W	17-13
Nov. 16	Seattle	W	24-20
Nov. 20	at Oakland	L	20-24
Nov. 30	Denver	L	16-29
Dec. 7	at Arizona	L	14-17
Dec. 14	Oakland	W	31-13
Dec. 21	at Pittsburgh	L	12-20
Dec. 28	San Diego	W	19-7

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

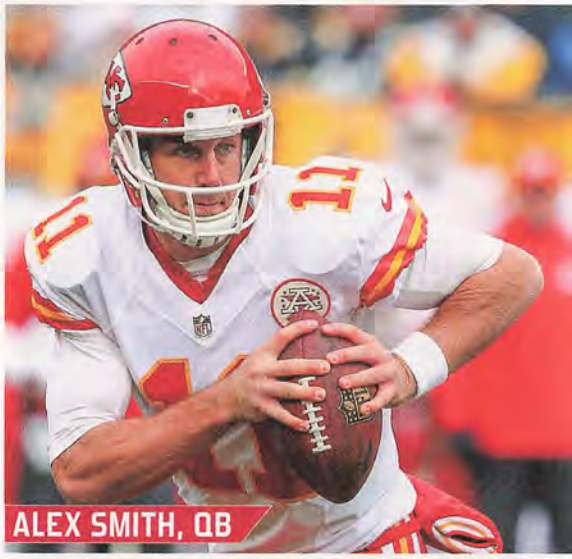
PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Alex Smith	464	303	3,265	18	6
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Jamaal Charles	206	1,033	5.0	9	
Knile Davis	134	463	3.5	6	
Alex Smith	49	254	5.2	1	
De'Anthony Thomas	14	113	8.1	1	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Travis Kelce	67	862	12.9	5	
Dwayne Bowe	60	754	12.6	0	
Jamaal Charles	40	291	7.3	5	
Anthony Fasano	25	226	9.0	4	
De'Anthony Thomas	23	156	6.8	0	

KICKING: Cairo Santos, 25-30 FGs, 38-38 PATs, 113 points
TACKLES: Josh Mauga, 103; Ron Parker, 94
SACKS: Justin Houston, 22.0; Two players tied with 6.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Kurt Coleman, 3; Three players tied with 1

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	318.8	25	12
Rushing	119.9	10	5
Passing	198.9	29	14
Scoring	22.1	16	9
Third Down %	39.8	19	9
Punt Returns	12.1	4	1
Kick Returns	28.0	T2	T2
TEAM DEFENSE	**Stat**	**NFL Rank**	**AFC Rank**
Total	330.5	7	4
Rushing	127.2	22	14
Passing	203.2	2	1
Scoring	17.6	2	1
Interceptions	6	T30	T14
Sacks	46	5	3
Turnover Differential	-4	21	10

Houston's outside linebacker bookend, Tamba Hali, saw his production slip (11 sacks in 2013; six last fall) but endeared himself to Chiefs fans by taking a pay cut rather than trying to force his way onto the open market via a release. First-round pick Dee Ford was a non-factor during the first half of 2014 but could take on more snaps (and responsibility) if the 31-year-old Hali fades.


ALEX SMITH, QB

As stunning as the Johnson/DeVito injuries were, it was nothing compared to the shocking news of late November, when Pro Bowl safety Eric Berry was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma, ending an injury-plagued season on a somber note. While expected to make a full recovery, Berry may not be healthy enough to return to football fitness before the start of the regular season. With that in mind, the Chiefs signed veteran Tyvon Branch from Oakland and re-upped with journeyman Ron Parker, who can slot into any role in Sutton's secondary but seemed to excel as a safety. Cornerback Sean Smith is coming off his best season (18 pass breakups) in Kansas City but was expected to receive a multi-game suspension for this fall because of a drunk-driving incident dating back to last summer.

SPECIALISTS De'Anthony Thomas was drafted to change games with his legs, and the speedster didn't disappoint as a rookie, averaging 11.9 yards per punt return with a touchdown and 30.6 yards per kickoff return. Thomas is a perfect complement to Davis, who has run a kickoff back for a score twice now in two seasons. After an impressive spring and summer, rookie kicker Cairo Santos beat out veteran Ryan Succop and rebounded from a terrible regular-season debut to hit 25-of-30 field-goal attempts and 8-of-12 from 40 yards or longer. Punter Dustin Colquitt (44.6 yards per boot) is the locker room's resident grey beard, having survived five coaches and three GMs since joining the club in 2005.

FINAL ANALYSIS Peyton Manning is fading, but he's 13–1 against the Chiefs; as long as he's at the controls, the Broncos probably aren't going anywhere. A schedule that pairs the Chiefs with the NFC North doesn't do them many favors, nor does getting stuck away from Arrowhead Stadium from Halloween to Thanksgiving. But three of the final four games are winnable and at home, and the locker room believes in Reid. If an answer is found at center and if Kelce stays healthy, the Chiefs should be primed to chase a playoff berth again.

CHIEFS IN THE DRAFT

B-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Marcus Peters	CB	6-0	197	Washington
2.	Mitch Morse	G/C	6-5	305	Missouri
3.	Chris Conley	WR	6-2	213	Georgia
3.	Steven Nelson	CB	5-10	197	Oregon State
4.	Ramik Wilson	LB	6-2	237	Georgia
5.	D.J. Alexander	LB	6-2	233	Oregon State
5.	James O'Shaughnessy	TE	6-4	245	Illinois State
6.	Rakeem Nunez-Roches	DT	6-2	307	Southern Miss.
7.	Da'Ron Brown	WR	6-0	205	Northern Illinois

Marcus Peters — who was booted from the Washington football program after a series of transgressions on and off the field — has more red flags in his corner than United Nations Plaza. But insiders believe Andy Reid and his staff can harness his competitive juices the right way. And if they can't, well, enter Steven Nelson, who shares a lot of the same tough, relentless traits as Peters but in a smaller package. Mitch Morse had some issues with snaps as a college center but is expected to get a long look at the position in camp. Chris Conley is a physical freak who posted a record 45-inch vertical leap at the Combine. Ramik Wilson has a shot to play right away at the inside linebacker spot opposite Derrick Johnson, while the quick D.J. Alexander, athletic James O'Shaughnessy and powerful Rakeem Nunez-Roches could be third-day steals if they stick.

Smith: Bruce Schwartzman; Peters: AP

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
9	Bray, Tyler	QB	6-6	215	2	Tennessee	FA-13	FA-KC-13
10	Daniel, Chase	QB	6-0	225	6	Missouri	FA-13	FA-Was-09
7	Murray, Aaron	QB	6-1	207	1	Georgia	D5-14	D5-KC-14
11	Smith, Alex	QB	6-4	217	10	Utah	T-SF-13	D1-SF-05
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
25	Charles, Jamaal	RB	5-11	199	7	Texas	D3a-08	D3a-KC-08
34	Davis, Knile	RB	5-10	227	2	Arkansas	D3b-13	D3b-KC-13
32	Gray, Cyrus	RB	5-10	206	3	Texas A&M	D6-12	D6-KC-12
42	Sherman, Anthony	FB	5-10	242	4	Connecticut	T-Ari-13	D5-Ari-11
13	Thomas, De'Anthony	RB	5-9	174	1	Oregon	D4-14	D4-KC-14
44	Ware, Spencer	FB	5-10	228	2	LSU	FA-14	D6-SEA-13
35	West, Charcandrick	RB	5-10	205	1	Abilene Christian	FA-14	FA-KC-14
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
81	Avant, Jason	WR	6-0	210	9	Michigan	FA-14	D4b-Phi-06
46	Barden, Brandon	TE	6-4	253	3	Vanderbilt	FA-14	FA-Ten-12
14	Binns, Armon	WR	6-3	211	3	Cincinnati	FA-14	FA-Jac-11
89	Gordon, Richard	TE	6-4	265	4	Miami	FA-14	D6-Oak-11
85	Hammond Jr., Frankie	WR	6-1	184	1	Florida	FA-14	FA-KC-13
84	Harris, Demetrius	TE	6-7	230	1	UW-Milwaukee	FA-14	FA-KC-13
88	Hemingway, Junior	WR	6-1	225	2	Michigan	D7b-12	D7b-KC-12
87	Kelce, Travis	TE	6-5	260	2	Cincinnati	D3a-13	D3a-KC-13
	Maclin, Jeremy	WR	6-0	198	6	Missouri	FA-Phi-15	D1-Phi-09
83	Williams, Fred	WR	6-0	190	1	St. Cloud State	FA-14	FA-KC-13
12	Wilson, Albert	WR	5-9	200	1	Georgia State	FA-14	FA-KC-14
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
71	Allen, Jeff	G/T	6-4	306	3	Illinois	D2-12	D2-KC-12
76	Duvernay-Tardif, Laurent	OL	6-5	321	1	McGill	D6b-14	D6b-KC-14
74	Fanaika, Paul	G	6-5	327	5	Arizona State	FA-Ari-15	D7-Phi-09
62	Feigt, Curtis	T	6-6	310	1	West Virginia	FA-14	FA-Cin-14
72	Fisher, Eric	T	6-7	315	2	Central Michigan	D1-13	D1-KC-13
73	Fulton, Zach	G	6-5	316	1	Tennessee	D6a-14	D6a-KC-14
	Grubbs, Ben	G	6-3	310	8	Auburn	T-NO-15	D1-Bal-07
65	Henry, Ricky	G	6-4	310	3	Nebraska	W-NO-13	FA-Chi-11
64	Kush, Eric	C	6-4	313	2	California (PA)	D6a-13	D6a-KC-13
79	Stephenson, Donald	OL	6-6	312	3	Oklahoma	D3-12	D3-KC-12
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
97	Bailey, Allen	DL	6-3	288	4	Miami	D3b-11	D3b-KC-11
77	Catapano, Mike	DE	6-4	291	2	Princeton	D7-13	D7-KC-13
70	DeVito, Mike	DL	6-3	305	8	Maine	FA-NYJ-13	FA-NYJ-07
93	Fangupo, Hebron	DT	6-0	324	1	BYU	FA-14	FA-Hou-12
96	Howard, Jaye	DL	6-3	301	3	Florida	W-Sea-13	D4-Sea-12
	Martin, Vaughn	DL	6-4	300	4	Western Ontario	FA-14	D4-SD-09
92	Poe, Dontari	DT	6-3	346	3	Memphis	D1-12	D1-KC-12
98	Williams, Nick	DL	6-4	309	2	Samford	FA-14	D7-Pit-13
66	Worthy, Jerel	DT	6-2	308	3	Michigan State	FA-14	D2-GB-12
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
55	Ford, Dee	LB	6-2	252	1	Auburn	D1-14	D1-KC-14
91	Hali, Tamba	LB	6-3	275	9	Penn State	D1-06	D1-KC-06
50	Houston, Justin	LB	6-3	258	4	Georgia	D3a-11	D3a-KC-11
56	Johnson, Derrick	LB	6-3	242	10	Texas	D1-05	D1-KC-05
52	Johnson, James-Michael	LB	6-1	240	3	Nevada	W-Cle-13	D4-Cle-12
95	Martin, Josh	LB	6-3	245	2	Columbia	FA-13	FA-KC-13
90	Mauga, Josh	LB	6-1	245	5	Nevada	FA-14	FA-NYJ-09
54	Moses, Dezman	LB	6-2	249	3	Tulane	W-GB-13	FA-GB-12
51	Zombo, Frank	LB	6-3	254	5	Central Michigan	FA-14	FA-GB-10
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
39	Abdullah, Husain	S	6-0	204	6	Washington State	FA-14	FA-Min-08
29	Berry, Eric	S	6-0	211	5	Tennessee	D1-10	D1-KC-10
	Branch, Tyvon	S	6-0	210	7	Connecticut	FA-Oak-15	D4-Oak-08
26	Commings, Sanders	S	6-0	223	2	Georgia	D5-13	D5-KC-13
31	Cooper, Marcus	CB	6-2	192	2	Rutgers	W-SF-13	D7-SF-13
30	Fleming, Jamell	CB	5-11	206	3	Oklahoma	FA-14	D3-Ari-12
23	Gaines, Phillip	CB	6-0	193	1	Rice	D3-14	D3-KC-14
24	McCray, Kelcie	S	6-1	205	2	Arkansas State	T-TB-14	FA-Mia-12
40	Olatoye, Deji	CB	6-1	194	1	North Carolina A&T	FA-14	FA-Bal-14
38	Parker, Ron	DB	6-0	206	4	Newberry	W-Sea-13	FA-Sea-11
21	Smith, Sean	CB	6-3	218	6	Utah	FA-13	D2b-Mia-09
49	Sorensen, Daniel	S	6-2	208	1	BYU	FA-14	FA-KC-14
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
2	Colquitt, Dustin	P	6-3	210	10	Tennessee	D3-05	D3-KC-05
	Hus, Jorgen	LS	6-1	232	1	Regina	FA-15	FA-StL-13
5	Santos, Cairo	K	5-8	160	1	Tulane	FA-14	FA-KC-14

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	12	Albert Wilson
		Chris Conley (R)
WR		Jeremy Maclin
	81	Jason Avant
LT	72	Eric Fisher
	79	Donald Stephenson
LG		Ben Grubbs
	76	Laurent Duvernay-Tardif
C		Mitch Morse (R)
	64	Eric Kush
RG	73	Zach Fulton
	74	Paul Fanaika
RT	79	Donald Stephenson
	71	Jeff Allen
TE	87	Travis Kelce
	84	Demetrius Harris
QB	11	Alex Smith
	10	Chase Daniel
FB	42	Anthony Sherman
	44	Spencer Ware
RB	25	Jamaal Charles
	34	Knile Davis

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	97	Allen Bailey
	96	Jaye Howard
NT	92	Dontari Poe
		Rakeem Nunez-Roches (R)
DE	70	Mike DeVito
	77	Mike Catapano
OLB	50	Justin Houston
	55	Dee Ford
ILB	56	Derrick Johnson
		Ramik Wilson (R)
ILB	90	Josh Mauga
	52	James-Michael Johnson
OLB	91	Tamba Hali
	95	Josh Martin
CB		Marcus Peters (R)
	23	Phillip Gaines
CB	21	Sean Smith
	30	Jamell Fleming
SS	38	Ron Parker
		Tyvon Branch
FS	39	Husain Abdullah
	24	Kelcie McCray

SPECIALISTS

K	5	Cairo Santos	KR	34	Knile Davis
P	2	Dustin Colquitt	PR	13	De'Anthony Thomas

SCOUTING THE CHIEFS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP KANSAS CITY "With zero explosiveness in the passing game, the Chiefs allowed Dwayne Bowe to walk and probably overpaid for the Eagles' Jeremy Maclin. ... They are very high on second-year player Albert Wilson. And look for De'Anthony Thomas to get an increased role in 2015 after doing some good things on special teams. ... Their two best offensive producers are running back Jamaal Charles and tight end Travis Kelce. ... The line allowed 49 sacks, and Rodney Hudson left for the Raiders in free agency. They are banking on Eric Fisher getting healthy and playing well at left tackle. This unit may be the most worrisome on the entire roster. ... Nose tackle Dontari Poe is a Pro Bowl-caliber player, and he's very durable. ... Justin Houston has been franchised after a 22-sack season, and he has really developed into a complete outside linebacker. His counterpart, Tamba Hali, continues to plug along and will always chip in 6-to-10 sacks per year. ... The Chiefs took corner Marcus Peters from Washington with their first-round pick, and they are gambling that his character and personality can be managed. He will line up opposite of Sean Smith with the thinking that they now have the athleticism and length to compete with the receivers of the AFC West."

2015 SCHEDULE

					2014 NFL RANKINGS			
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	at Houston	1:00	9-7	344.6 (17)	348.2 (16)	23.3 (14)	19.2 (7)
2	Sept. 17	Denver (Thu.)	8:25	12-4	402.9 (4)	305.2 (3)	30.1 (2)	22.1 (16)
3	Sept. 28	at Green Bay (Mon.)	8:30	12-4	386.1 (6)	346.4 (15)	30.4 (1)	21.8 (13)
4	Oct. 4	at Cincinnati	1:00	10-5-1	348.0 (15)	359.3 (22)	22.8 (15)	21.5 (12)
5	Oct. 11	Chicago	1:00	5-11	327.1 (21)	377.1 (30)	19.9 (23)	27.6 (31)
6	Oct. 18	at Minnesota	1:00	7-9	315.5 (27)	344.7 (14)	20.3 (21)	21.4 (11)
7	Oct. 25	Pittsburgh	1:00	11-5	411.1 (2)	353.4 (18)	27.3 (7)	23.0 (18)
8	Nov. 1	vs. Detroit (London)	9:30 am	11-5	340.8 (19)	300.9 (2)	20.1 (22)	17.6 (2)
9		BYE						
10	Nov. 15	at Denver	4:25	12-4	402.9 (4)	305.2 (3)	30.1 (2)	22.1 (16)
11	Nov. 22	at San Diego	8:30	9-7	341.6 (18)	338.3 (9)	21.8 (17)	21.8 (13)
12	Nov. 29	Buffalo	1:00	9-7	318.5 (26)	312.2 (4)	21.4 (18)	18.1 (4)
13	Dec. 6	at Oakland	4:05	3-13	282.2 (32)	357.6 (21)	15.8 (31)	28.3 (32)
14	Dec. 13	San Diego	1:00	9-7	341.6 (18)	338.3 (9)	21.8 (17)	21.8 (13)
15	Dec. 20	at Baltimore	1:00	10-6	364.9 (12)	336.9 (8)	25.6 (8)	18.9 (6)
16	Dec. 27	Cleveland	1:00	7-9	324.6 (23)	366.1 (23)	18.7 (27)	21.1 (9)
17	Jan. 3	Oakland	1:00	3-13	282.2 (32)	357.6 (21)	15.8 (31)	28.3 (32)

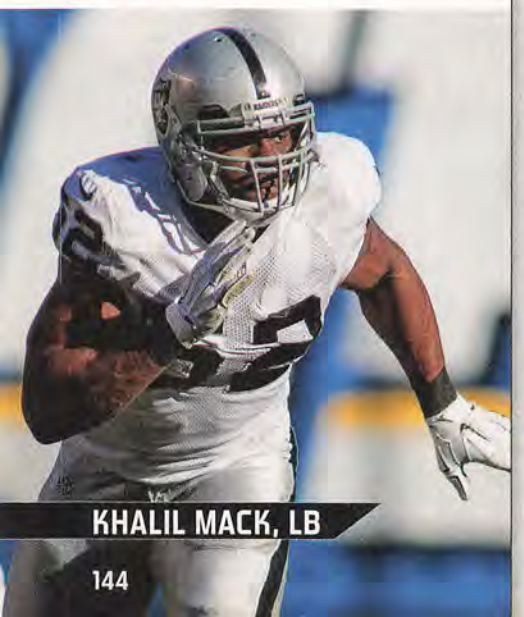
OAKLAND RAIDERS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Jack Del Rio
RECORD WITH TEAM: 0–0
CAREER RECORD: 68–71
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Bill Musgrave
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Ken Norton Jr.
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Brad Seely
QUARTERBACKS: Todd Downing
RUNNING BACKS: Bernie Parmalee
WIDE RECEIVERS: Rob Moore
TIGHT ENDS: Bobby Johnson
OFFENSIVE LINE: Mike Tice
DEFENSIVE LINE: Jethro Franklin
LINEBACKERS: Sal Sunseri
DEFENSIVE BACKS: Marcus Robertson

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2010	8
2011	8
2012	4
2013	4
2014	3



KHALIL MACK, LB

4 AFC WEST FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER: Mark Davis
GENERAL MANAGER: Reggie McKenzie
DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION: Tom Delaney
DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL: Joey Clinkscales
STADIUM: O.co Coliseum (56,057)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.raiders.com
TICKETS: 510-864-5020
TRAINING CAMP: Napa Valley Training Complex (Napa, Calif.)

It's been 13 seasons since the Raiders made the playoffs and that long since they finished above .500. Bill Callahan led them to an 11–5 regular-season record in 2002 and to Super Bowl XXXVII, where they were crushed by Tampa Bay and former Oakland coach Jon Gruden. The next year the Raiders went 4–12 and Callahan was fired. Since then, Norv Turner, Art Shell, Lane Kiffin, Tom Cable, Hue Jackson, Dennis Allen and Tony Sparano have tried but failed to resurrect a once-dominant franchise that has won three Super Bowls overall but none in the past 31 seasons. Enter former Jacksonville Jaguars coach Jack Del Rio, a Bay Area native who will try to lead the team back to respectability and, ultimately, prominence in the NFL.

"I'm really not spending a whole lot of time worrying about what was," Del Rio said at the NFL Scouting Combine. "I'm really focused on what needs to be going forward. We're going to have a very competitive mentality throughout our organization in everything we're doing."

Del Rio spent the past three seasons as defensive coordinator for the Denver Broncos, who won the AFC West last season, finishing nine games ahead of the Raiders. That's a huge gap to close, and the Raiders had hoped to gain ground after entering free agency with more than $60 million in salary cap space. Owner Mark Davis said he was ready to back up the Brinks truck and spend big money to land big-name free agents, but the Ndamukong Suhs and DeMarco Murrays of the free-agent world went elsewhere. So Raiders general manager Reggie McKenzie spread the money out among a group of solid, less expensive players, including center Rodney Hudson, middle linebacker Curtis Lofton and defensive tackle Dan Williams.

OFFENSE The Raiders ranked last in total offense, last in rushing, 26th in passing and 31st in scoring. New offensive coordinator Bill Musgrave faces a huge challenge, but at least McKenzie got him a true No. 1 receiver, taking Alabama's Amari Cooper with the fourth overall choice in the draft. Former 49er Michael Crabtree will likely start alongside Cooper, giving second-year quarterback Derek Carr two sure-handed targets who know how to get open. Shortly after the draft, Oakland released wide receiver James Jones, who led the team with 73 catches last season. Rod Streater and Andre Holmes, a pair of big, young receivers, should compete for playing time. Tight end Mychal Rivera is coming off a 58-catch second season, but Clive Walford, a third-round pick from Miami, could wind up starting because he's a solid receiver who can also block, which is not Rivera's strong suit.

Musgrave, who spent last season as quarterbacks coach for Chip Kelly in Philadelphia, plans to use some of Kelly's warp-speed spread attack. That should help Carr, who thrived in an up-tempo offense at Fresno State. Carr started all 16 games as a rookie. He passed for 21 TDs with 12 interceptions, and was sacked only 24 times. But Carr averaged just 5.5 yards per pass, lower than any other quarterback with a top-40 passer rating. That number should improve now that he has a year's experience in the NFL and more weapons on the field.

Running back Latavius Murray appears ready to become the Raiders' No. 1 running back after Darren McFadden left as a free agent and Maurice Jones-Drew retired. The 6'3", 225-pound Murray rushed for 424 yards and two TDs on 82 carries for the season and started the final three games. Roy Helu Jr. will give Oakland a change of pace out of the backfield, and Trent Richardson will try to ignite his NFL career in what could be his last chance. Pro Bowl fullback Marcel Reece will likely be used in a variety of roles in Musgrave's scheme to take better advantage of his receiving and running skills.

The Raiders' offensive line gave Carr decent protection but opened too few holes for running backs last season. The addition of Hudson and the further development of second-year left guard Gabe Jackson could help Oakland's power running game. Left tackle Donald Penn had a strong season last year after signing with Oakland as a free agent. Austin Howard, a former Jet, started at right guard last year in his first season as a Raider, but he'll move to right tackle, his best position, and battle Menelik Watson for the job. The starting job at right guard could come down to a battle between veteran Khalif Barnes and rookie Jon Feliciano.

DEFENSE The Raiders ranked 21st in total defense last season and gave up 28.2 points per game, more than any other team in the NFL. New defensive coordinator Ken Norton Jr. and Del Rio have plenty of work to do just to make the defense respectable, let alone dominant. They have a nice building block in outside linebacker Khalil Mack, who had a superb rookie season after being taken with the fifth-overall pick in the draft. Mack was a monster against

Peter Brouillet

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

DIFFERENT SORT OF OFFSEASON Quarterback Derek Carr took a two-week break after the season ended and then got back to work. But unlike last year, he didn't have to prepare for the NFL Combine and pre-draft workouts and interviews. "I didn't have to worry about any of that," Carr says. "I just had to go out and train. I knew what I was training for this time. That was nice, to just be out there knowing what I need to work on to help make my game better at the NFL level, instead of working on my 40 start. Hopefully I'll never have to run another one."

BAY AREA HOMECOMING For running back Roy Helu Jr., signing with Oakland as a free agent is a homecoming of sorts. Helu was born in nearby Danville and graduated from San Ramon Valley High School. He played his first four NFL seasons for Washington, which drafted him in the fourth round out of Nebraska in 2011. "It's appealing just to return to the familiarity, and with my family being in close proximity, their support and their support of my family with my wife and our kids," Helu says. "There was a lot of appeal to come back."

LEADING BY EXAMPLE Second-year outside linebacker Khalil Mack says his new coaches expect him to become a bigger leader this season, but that doesn't mean he'll be more vocal. "They want me to be a guy that steps in," Mack says. "Jack (Del Rio) understands the type of guy I am. I told him I like to go out and use my actions to speak loudly. He understands that, being a defensive guy. I am excited. I am ready to go out and play now for real."

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT Wide receiver Amari Cooper comes to the Raiders with a reputation for being a superb and polished route runner, a rare quality for rookie wideouts. "I've been playing receiver since I first started playing football in the second or third grade," Cooper says. "I think that's kind of rare because usually when you're really young, the best athletes usually play running back because you run the ball more when you're younger. I think it was an advantage to me to be playing receiver for a long time, and I think that's where my route-running ability comes from."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
S	Nate Allen	Philadelphia
WR	Michael Crabtree	San Francisco
CB	James Dockery	Carolina
RB	Roy Helu Jr.	Washington
C	Rodney Hudson	Kansas City
LB	Curtis Lofton	New Orleans
QB	Christian Ponder	Minnesota
LB	Malcolm Smith	Seattle
OT	J'Marcus Webb	Minnesota
DT	Dan Williams	Arizona

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
S	Tyvon Branch	Kansas City
LB	Miles Burris	Free Agent
CB	Chimdi Chekwa	New England
WR	James Jones	Free Agent
RB	Darren McFadden	Dallas
QB	Matt Schaub	Baltimore
DT	Pat Sims	Cincinnati
DT	Antonio Smith	Denver
C	Stefen Wisniewski	Jacksonville

DEREK CARR, QB

2014 RESULTS (3-13)

Sept. 7	at N.Y. Jets	L	14-19
Sept. 14	Houston	L	14-30
Sept. 21	at New England	L	9-16
Sept. 28	Miami	L	14-38
Oct. 12	San Diego	L	28-31
Oct. 19	Arizona	L	13-24
Oct. 26	at Cleveland	L	13-23
Nov. 2	at Seattle	L	24-30
Nov. 9	Denver	L	17-41
Nov. 16	at San Diego	L	6-13
Nov. 20	Kansas City	W	24-20
Nov. 30	at St. Louis	L	0-52
Dec. 7	San Francisco	W	24-13
Dec. 14	at Kansas City	L	13-31
Dec. 21	Buffalo	W	26-24
Dec. 28	at Denver	L	14-47

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

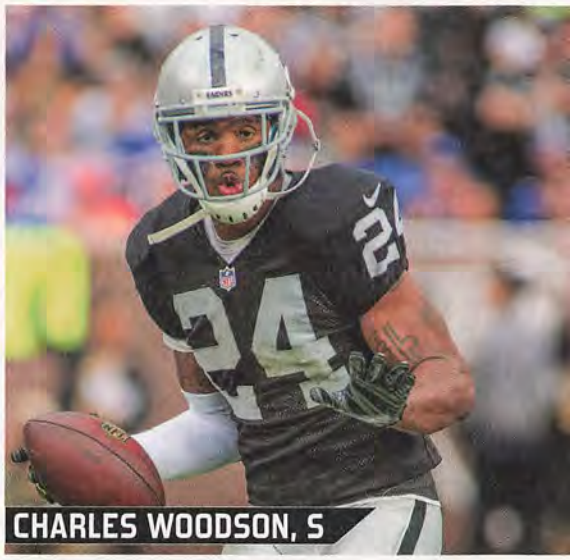
PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Derek Carr	599	348	3,270	21	12
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Darren McFadden	155	534	3.4	2	
Latavius Murray	82	424	5.2	2	
Maurice Jones-Drew	43	96	2.2	0	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
James Jones	73	666	9.1	6	
Mychal Rivera	58	534	9.2	4	
Andre Holmes	47	693	14.7	4	
Marcel Reece	37	265	7.2	1	
Darren McFadden	36	212	5.9	0	
Brice Butler	21	280	13.3	2	

KICKING: Sebastian Janikowski, 19-22 FGs, 28-28 PATs, 85 points
TACKLES: Charles Woodson, 110; Miles Burris, 109
SACKS: Justin Tuck, 5.0; Khalil Mack, 4.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Charles Woodson, 4; Brandian Ross, 2

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	282.2	32	16
Rushing	77.5	32	16
Passing	204.7	26	13
Scoring	15.8	31	15
Third Down %	33.9	28	13
Punt Returns	7.1	T22	T10
Kick Returns	21.9	23	13
TEAM DEFENSE	**Stat**	**NFL Rank**	**AFC Rank**
Total	357.6	21	12
Rushing	119.4	22	10
Passing	238.1	16	10
Scoring	28.2	32	16
Interceptions	9	27	12
Sacks	22	T30	15
Turnover Differential	-15	32	16

the run, and the Raiders believe he can become a game-changing pass rusher, too. He had only four sacks as a rookie. The Raiders should have a stronger and deeper linebacker corps after adding Lofton, who will start between Mack and Sio Moore or and ex-Seahawks outside linebacker Malcolm Smith. Miles Burris was released just days after the Raiders drafted a pair of linebackers.


CHARLES WOODSON, S

Free safety Charles Woodson, who turns 39 in October, led the Raiders in tackles (110) and interceptions (four) and will play his 18th NFL season, giving Oakland's defense an unquestioned leader. Nate Allen, a free-agent pickup from Philadelphia, should start alongside Woodson at strong safety. The question is whether the Raiders will have enough quality cornerbacks. They are counting heavily on D.J. Hayden having a breakthrough campaign after two injury-plagued seasons. Hayden, a first-round pick in 2013, could be paired with T.J. Carrie, who had a strong rookie season last year after being drafted in the seventh round.

The Raiders had just 22 sacks last season, and defensive end Justin Tuck led the team with five. They desperately need to generate more pass-rush pressure, but McKenzie did little in free agency or the draft to boost Oakland's pass rush. Defensive end Mario Edwards Jr., a second-round pick from Florida State, had only eight career sacks. So it will be largely up to Mack and Tuck to get to the quarterback.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Sebastian Janikowski, 37, didn't get much work last season, but he made 19-of-22 attempts, including a 57-yarder, after going 21-of-30 in 2013. The Raiders would like to reduce punter Marquette King's workload. He punted 109 times last season, averaging 45.2 yards with a net average of 40.0 in his second year since replacing Shane Lechler. Carrie handled most of the punt return duties last year, averaging 7.5 yards with no touchdowns. Taiwan Jones, a speedster who suffered a season-ending foot injury in the opener last year, could give the Raiders a dangerous kickoff return man if he's healthy.

FINAL ANALYSIS After back-to-back solid drafts, the Raiders have raised their talent level and added some solid building blocks, particularly Mack, Cooper and Carr. They won three of their final six games last season, and a .500 season this year is not out of the question. That will depend on how quickly the team adapts to yet another coaching change.

RAIDERS IN THE DRAFT

B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Amari Cooper**	**WR**	**6-1**	**211**	**Alabama**
2.	Mario Edwards Jr.	DE	6-3	279	Florida State
3.	Clive Walford	TE	6-4	251	Miami
4.	Jon Feliciano	OG	6-4	323	Miami
5.	Ben Heeney	ILB	6-0	231	Kansas
5.	Neiron Ball	OLB	6-2	236	Florida
6.	Max Valles	DE	6-5	251	Virginia
7.	Anthony Morris	OT	6-6	290	Tennessee State
7.	Andre Debose	WR	6-0	190	Florida
7.	Dexter McDonald	CB	6-1	200	Kansas

Amari Cooper is a precise route runner with explosive speed and should become Oakland's first 1,000-yard receiver since Randy Moss in 2005. The Raiders have an opening in their starting lineup at right defensive end, and Mario Edwards Jr. will likely fill it, if he keeps his weight under control. He's solid against the run but won't solve the Raiders' pass-rush problems. Clive Walford gives the Raiders something they've lacked — a tight end who can both catch and block. He has a great chance to start as a rookie. Jon Feliciano will compete with Khalif Barnes for the vacant starting job at right guard. Linebacker Ben Heeney is a tackling machine who should earn his money on special teams as a rookie. Max Valles had nine sacks last season and could earn a role as a nickel pass rusher.

Woodson: Peter Brouillet; Cooper: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
4	Carr, Derek	QB	6-3	214	1	Fresno State	D2-14	D2-Oak-14
14	McGloin, Matt	QB	6-1	210	2	Penn State	FA-13	FA-Oak-13
9	Ponder, Christian	QB	6-2	229	4	Florida State	FA-Min-15	D1-Min-11

RUNNING BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
34	Atkinson III, George	RB	6-1	218	1	Notre Dame	FA-14	FA-Oak-14
26	Helu Jr., Roy	RB	5-11	215	4	Nebraska	FA-Was-15	D4-Was-11
28	Murray, Latavius	RB	6-3	225	2	UCF	D6b-13	D6b-Oak-13
49	Olawale, Jamize	RB	6-1	235	2	North Texas	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
33	Richardson, Trent	RB	5-9	225	3	Alabama	FA-Ind-15	D1-Cle-12
45	Reece, Marcel	FB	6-1	250	5	Washington	FA-08	FA-Mia-08

RECEIVERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
12	Butler, Brice	WR	6-3	210	2	San Diego State	D7a-13	D7a-Oak-13
15	Crabtree, Michael	WR	6-1	214	6	Texas Tech	FA-SF-15	D1-SF-09
18	Holmes, Andre	WR	6-4	210	3	Hillsdale	W-NE-13	FA-Min-11
10	Jenkins, Greg	WR	6-1	205	2	Alabama State	FA-14	FA-Oak-13
87	Leonhardt, Brian	TE	6-5	255	1	Bemidji State	FA-13	FA-Oak-13
81	Rivera, Mychal	TE	6-3	245	2	Tennessee	D6c-13	D6c-Oak-13
15	Roberts, Seth	WR	6-2	196	1	West Alabama	FA-14	FA-Oak-14
83	Simonson, Scott	TE	6-5	249	1	Assumption	FA-14	FA-Oak-14
86	Smith, Lee	TE	6-6	265	4	Marshall	FA-Buf-15	D5-NE-11
80	Streater, Rod	WR	6-3	195	3	Temple	FA-12	FA-Oak-12
85	Thompkins, Kenbrell	WR	6-1	195	2	Cincinnati	W-NE-14	FA-NE-13

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
69	Barnes, Khalif	T/G	6-6	320	10	Washington	FA-Jac-09	D2-Jac-05
70	Bergstrom, Tony	G	6-5	315	3	Utah	D3-12	D3-Oak-12
77	Howard, Austin	G/T	6-7	330	5	Northern Iowa	FA-NYJ-14	FA-Phi-10
61	Hudson, Rodney	C	6-2	299	4	Florida State	FA-KC-15	D2-KC-11
66	Jackson, Gabe	G	6-3	336	1	Mississippi State	D3-14	D3-Oak-14
65	Kistler, Dan	T	6-7	315	1	Montana	FA-14	FA-Oak-14
63	Mady, Lamar	G	6-2	315	2	Youngstown State	FA-13	FA-Oak-13
73	McCants, Matt	T	6-6	310	2	UAB	FA-13	D6-NYG-12
72	Penn, Donald	T	6-4	340	9	Utah State	FA-14	FA-Min-06
71	Watson, Menelik	T	6-5	315	2	Florida State	D2-13	D2-Oak-13
76	Webb, J'Marcus	T	6-7	333	5	West Texas A&M	FA-Min-15	D7-Chi-10

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
96	Autry, Denico	DE	6-5	273	1	Mississippi State	FA-14	FA-Oak-14
78	Ellis, Justin	DT	6-2	334	1	Louisiana Tech	D4a-14	D4a-Oak-14
75	Harris, Shelby	DE	6-2	288	1	Illinois State	D7b-14	D7b-Oak-14
93	Lumpkin, Ricky	DT	6-4	300	1	Kentucky	FA-13	FA-Ari-11
95	Mayowa, Benson	DE	6-3	252	2	Idaho	W-Sea-14	FA-Sea-13
92	McGee, Stacy	DT	6-3	310	2	Oklahoma	D6d-13	D6d-Oak-13
91	Tuck, Justin	DE	6-5	265	10	Notre Dame	FA-NYG-14	D3-NYG-05
98	Wilson, C.J.	DL	6-3	300	5	East Carolina	FA-GB-14	D7-GB-10
90	Williams, Dan	NT	6-3	314	5	Tennessee	FA-Ari-15	D1-Ari-10

LINEBACKERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
57	Armstrong, Ray-Ray	LB	6-3	234	2	Miami	W-StL-14	FA-StL-13
48	Hadley, Spencer	LB	6-1	227	1	BYU	FA-14	FA-NO-14
50	Lofton, Curtis	LB	6-0	241	7	Oklahoma	FA-NO-15	D2-Atl-08
52	Mack, Khalil	LB	6-3	252	1	Buffalo	D1-14	D1-Oak-14
55	Moore, Sio	LB	6-1	240	2	Connecticut	D3-13	D3-Oak-13
53	Smith, Malcolm	LB	6-0	226	4	USC	FA-Sea-15	D7b-Sea-11

DEFENSIVE BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
20	Allen, Nate	S	6-1	210	5	South Florida	FA-Phi-15	D2-Phi-10
42	Asante, Larry	S	6-0	210	3	Nebraska	FA-14	D5-Cle-10
38	Carrie, T.J.	CB	6-0	204	1	Ohio	D7a-14	D7a-Oak-14
37	Casey, Chance	CB	5-11	190	1	Baylor	FA-14	FA-Oak-13
41	Dockery, James	CB	6-1	185	4	Oregon State	FA-Car-15	FA-Cle-11
23	Dowling, Jonathan	S	6-3	190	1	Western Kentucky	D7c-14	D7c-Oak-14
36	Dowling, Ras-I	CB	6-1	210	3	Virginia	FA-14	D2-NE-11
25	Hayden, D.J.	CB	5-11	190	2	Houston	D1-13	D1-Oak-13
22	Jones, Taiwan	CB	6-0	195	4	Eastern Washington	D4b-11	D4b-Oak-11
40	Kearney, Vernon	DB	6-2	185	1	Lane	FA-14	FA-Buf-13
39	McGill, Keith	CB	6-3	211	1	Utah	D4b-14	D4b-Oak-14
29	Ross, Brandian	S	6-1	190	3	Youngstown State	W-Mia-14	FA-GB-11
31	Thorpe, Neiko	CB	6-1	200	2	Auburn	FA-14	FA-KC-12
24	Woodson, Charles	S	6-1	210	17	Michigan	FA-13	D1-Oak-98

SPECIALISTS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
2	Clark, Steven	P	6-5	230	1	Auburn	FA-15	FA-Den-14
59	Condo, Jon	LS	6-3	240	8	Maryland	FA-06	FA-Dal-05
11	Janikowski, Sebastian	K	6-1	260	15	Florida State	D1-00	D1-Oak-00
7	King, Marquette	P	6-0	190	3	Fort Valley State	FA-12	FA-Oak-12
6	Tavecchio, Giorgio	K	5-10	182	1	California	FA-15	FA-SF-12

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	89	Amari Cooper (R)
	80	Rod Streater
WR	15	Michael Crabtree
	18	Andre Holmes
LT	72	Donald Penn
	76	J'Marcus Webb
LG	66	Gabe Jackson
	63	Lamar Mady
C	61	Rodney Hudson
	70	Tony Bergstrom
RG	69	Khalif Barnes
	68	Jon Feliciano (R)
RT	77	Austin Howard
	71	Menelik Watson
TE	88	Clive Walford (R)
	81	Mychal Rivera
QB	4	Derek Carr
	9	Christian Ponder
FB	45	Marcel Reece
	49	Jamize Olawale
RB	28	Latavius Murray
	26	Roy Helu Jr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	91	Justin Tuck
	98	C.J. Wilson
NT	90	Dan Williams
	93	Ricky Lumpkin
DT	78	Justin Ellis
	92	Stacy McGee
DE	97	Mario Edwards Jr. (R)
	94	Max Valles (R)
SLB	52	Khalil Mack
	57	Ray-Ray Armstrong
MLB	50	Curtis Lofton
	51	Ben Heeney (R)
WLB	55	Sio Moore
	53	Malcolm Smith
CB	25	D.J. Hayden
	41	James Dockery
CB	38	T.J. Carrie
	39	Keith McGill
SS	20	Nate Allen
	29	Brandian Ross
FS	24	Charles Woodson
	42	Larry Asante

SPECIALISTS

K	11	Sebastian Janikowski	KR	22 Taiwan Jones
P	7	Marquette King	PR	38 T.J. Carrie

SCOUTING THE RAIDERS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP OAKLAND "Everything that was said about the Raiders going into the 2014 season came true: No firepower on offense and too many aged players on defense. ... The good news is that GM Reggie McKenzie hit on outside linebacker Khalil Mack, quarterback Derek Carr and guard Gabe Jackson with his first three picks in the 2014 draft, and they are all good, young players to build around in the future. ... Carr is their greatest asset, so they chose wide receiver Amari Cooper at pick No. 4 and tight end Clive Walford in the third round to give him more options. Cooper is a pro-ready talent that can line up anywhere and help Carr immediately, while Walford is a gifted pass catcher that can threaten the seam. ... The offensive line should be bolstered in the middle with former Chiefs center Rodney Hudson, but I'm still not sure they are good enough on the edges with Donald Penn and Austin Howard. ... Defensively, Mack was sensational as a rookie and looks to be a star in the making. ... The back end is a work in progress, and this part of their roster could derail everything. If they played a game tomorrow, D.J. Hayden and T.J. Carrie would be the opening corners, but Keith McGill is expected to challenge for playing time. ... The Raiders were bad in a lot of spots, but their bigger issue was not taking care of the football."

2015 SCHEDULE

					2014 NFL RANKINGS			
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	Cincinnati	4:25	10-5-1	348.0 (15)	359.3 (22)	22.8 (15)	21.5 (12)
2	Sept. 20	Baltimore	4:05	10-6	364.9 (12)	336.9 (8)	25.6 (8)	18.9 (6)
3	Sept. 27	at Cleveland	1:00	7-9	324.6 (23)	366.1 (23)	18.7 (27)	21.1 (9)
4	Oct. 4	at Chicago	1:00	5-11	327.1 (21)	377.1 (30)	19.9 (23)	27.6 (31)
5	Oct. 11	Denver	4:25	12-4	402.9 (4)	305.2 (3)	30.1 (2)	22.1 (16)
6		BYE						
7	Oct. 25	at San Diego	4:05	9-7	341.6 (18)	338.3 (9)	21.8 (17)	21.8 (13)
8	Nov. 1	N.Y. Jets	4:05	4-12	326.6 (22)	327.2 (6)	17.7 (28)	25.1 (24)
9	Nov. 8	at Pittsburgh	1:00	11-5	411.1 (2)	353.4 (18)	27.3 (7)	23.0 (18)
10	Nov. 15	Minnesota	4:05	7-9	315.5 (27)	344.7 (14)	20.3 (21)	21.4 (11)
11	Nov. 22	at Detroit	1:00	11-5	340.8 (19)	300.9 (2)	20.1 (22)	17.6 (2)
12	Nov. 29	at Tennessee	1:00	2-14	303.7 (29)	373.0 (27)	15.9 (30)	27.4 (30)
13	Dec. 6	Kansas City	4:05	9-7	318.8 (25)	330.5 (7)	22.1 (16)	17.6 (3)
14	Dec. 13	at Denver	4:05	12-4	402.9 (4)	305.2 (3)	30.1 (2)	22.1 (16)
15	Dec. 20	Green Bay	4:05	12-4	386.1 (6)	346.4 (15)	30.4 (1)	21.8 (13)
16	Dec. 24	San Diego (Thu.)	8:25	9-7	341.6 (18)	338.3 (9)	21.8 (17)	21.8 (13)
17	Jan. 3	at Kansas City	1:00	9-7	318.8 (25)	330.5 (7)	22.1 (16)	17.6 (3)

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

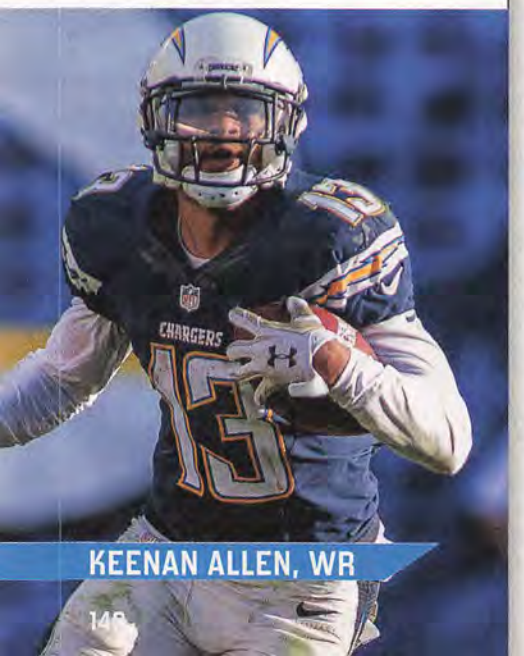
THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Head Coach: Mike McCoy
RECORD WITH TEAM: 18–14
CAREER RECORD: 18–14
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Frank Reich
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: John Pagano
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Kevin Spencer
QUARTERBACKS: Nick Sirianni
RUNNING BACKS: Ollie Wilson
WIDE RECEIVERS: Fred Graves
TIGHT ENDS: Pete Metzelaars
OFFENSIVE LINE: Joe D'Alessandris
DEFENSIVE LINE: Don Johnson
LINEBACKERS: Mike Nolan
SECONDARY: Ron Milus

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2010	9
2011	8
2012	7
2013	9
2014	9

Playoffs



KEENAN ALLEN, WR

3 AFC WEST FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER: Alex G. Spanos
CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT: Dean A. Spanos
GENERAL MANAGER: Tom Telesco
EXECUTIVE VP OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS: John Spanos
STADIUM: Qualcomm Stadium (70,561)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.chargers.com
TICKETS: 1-800-745-3000
TRAINING CAMP: Chargers Park (San Diego, Calif.)

Almost every conversation concerning the Chargers eventually veers to the question of whether they will move to the Los Angeles area beginning with the 2016 season. While the City of San Diego has never been this motivated to try to come up with a realistic plan to build a replacement for aging Qualcomm Stadium, the Chargers have never been this close to bolting up the freeway to L.A.

While the contentious issue plays out between team ownership and City Hall, general manager Tom Telesco and coach Mike McCoy are trying to stay focused on how to improve on last year's mostly unsatisfying performance. The Chargers finished third in the AFC West for the second straight year and missed the playoffs for the fourth time in five seasons.

While stars Philip Rivers, Antonio Gates and Eric Weddle return, there's a lot of room for improvement for a team that has gone 19–15 in two seasons under McCoy, including a playoff win and loss after the 2013 season.

OFFENSE Most of the pre-draft buzz surrounding the Bolts was a rumor that they would trade Rivers to the Tennessee Titans in order to draft Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota. Rivers is entering the final season of his contract and has expressed reservations about moving to the Los Angeles area — if that's what the team decides to do. The Bolts didn't trade Rivers, so he'll be back for his 10th season as starter. Rivers is coming off an up-and-down season that ended when he was sacked seven times in a lackluster loss at Kansas City in the season finale that knocked the Bolts out of playoff contention.

As L.A. rumors began to swirl, Telesco worked on two areas that hurt the Chargers in 2014 — a shaky offensive line and an unproductive running game. He re-signed left tackle King Dunlap, who had a big 2014 season protecting Rivers' blind side, and brought in free agent guard Orlando Franklin. Five different guys snapped the ball to Rivers last year, including Chris Watt, who heads into camp as the starter after getting valuable experience as a rookie.

Telesco spent heavily to move up just two spots in the first round of the draft to take Wisconsin running back Melvin Gordon, who led college football with an astounding 2,587 rushing yards in 2014. Gordon will replace Ryan Mathews, whose five years in San Diego included too few Pro Bowl appearances and too many injuries and fumbles. The slashing Gordon is expected to help take the pressure off Rivers, who had a second strong season since McCoy arrived as coach.

The Chargers should be in great shape at running back, if they can stay healthy. Branden Oliver returns after stepping in as a rookie to fill in while Mathews was injured. He ended up leading the Chargers with 582 yards and three touchdowns. Third-down back Danny Woodhead returns after missing much of last season with a leg injury. In 2013, his first season with the Chargers, he rushed for 429 yards and caught 76 passes for 605 yards.

Rivers' top targets — Antonio Gates, Keenan Allen and Malcom Floyd — will be supplemented by the addition of receiver/returner Jacoby Jones and Stevie Johnson. Gates, entering his 13th season, caught 69 passes and scored 12 touchdowns (one off his career high) last season.

DEFENSE The Chargers have to get more production out of their defensive line, pass rush and, specifically, inside linebacker Donald Butler. The Chargers had only 26 sacks last year, one of the weakest efforts in the NFL. At the very least, the two guys who led the team are back, defensive end Corey Liuget (4.5) and outside linebacker Melvin Ingram (4.0). Still, the Chargers have to come up with more pressure against opposing quarterbacks. They also need to get Butler back to his hard-hitting ways after he practically disappeared once he signed a long-term contract. Butler did finish third on the team with 73 tackles, but he didn't play with the same impact he had in previous years.

There are some bright spots. Liuget had a breakout season, and the Chargers will look for even bigger things from the former first-round draft pick. He had some impact plays — he recovered two fumbles, one for a touchdown in a comeback win at San Francisco, and forced two more, including one on a strip-sack that linebacker Andrew Gachkar returned for a touchdown against the Rams. Inside linebacker Manti Te'o continues to develop and had a solid second season. He finally had his first big impact play when he intercepted a pass — off Tom Brady, no less. The Chargers look for him to continue to develop, particularly in pass coverage.

Peter Brouillet

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

VOTE FOR PHILIP Philip Rivers' teammates would have nothing of the pre-draft rumors that the QB would be traded. "We definitely like having him as our quarterback. As far as I know he's still on our team, right?" running back Danny Woodhead said with a laugh. "He's a leader — it's what he does. He's one of the best in the league at his position, and we're very fortunate to have him on the field on Sundays ... He's a great player." Added left tackle King Dunlap: "What he brings, not a lot of guys have."

NON-PLUSSED The Chargers are doing a good job of blocking out talk about the possibility that the franchise could move to Los Angeles. "I'm a day-by-day guy, I'm an in-the-present guy," Woodhead says. "I'm trying to focus on getting ready for 2015. If you've been in this business long enough, you know that tomorrow's not guaranteed."

NO MESSAGE Given the rumors of that impending move to Los Angeles, social media was quick to react when a photo surfaced of Rivers wearing a Los Angeles Clippers cap during a playoff game. Turns out Rivers is just a friend and fan of Clippers head coach Doc Rivers (no relation).

CINCO DE CENTERS While every team has injury issues, things got more than a little ridiculous at the center position for the Chargers, who were forced to use five different starters there last year. Entering his last season, veteran Nick Hardwick was forced out of the opener with a season-ending neck stinger. Rich Ohrnberger started seven of the next nine games before he went on injured reserve with a back injury. Doug Legursky started two games before going on IR with a knee injury. Rookie Chris Watt started five games before getting knocked out with a calf injury, and Trevor Robinson started the season finale. Watt is the incumbent starter, and Robinson is listed as his backup.

RUNNING RECORD Former Chargers star LaDainian Tomlinson held the major-college football single-game rushing record of 406 yards from 1999, when he was at TCU, until Nov. 15, when Wisconsin Badger (and subsequent San Diego draft pick) Melvin Gordon broke his mark with 408 yards in just three quarters against Nebraska. Gordon held on to the record for only one week, because Oklahoma's Samaje Perine went off for 427 yards against Kansas the following Saturday.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
OG	Orlando Franklin	Denver
WR	Stevie Johnson	San Francisco
WR	Jacoby Jones	Baltimore
CB	Patrick Robinson	New Orleans
SS	Jimmy Wilson	Miami

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
OLB	Dwight Freeney	Free Agent
SS	Marcus Gilchrist	N.Y. Jets
C	Nick Hardwick	Retired
OLB	Jarret Johnson	Retired
RB	Ryan Mathews	Philadelphia
WR	Eddie Royal	Chicago
CB	Shareece Wright	San Francisco

PHILIP RIVERS, QB

2014 RESULTS (9-7)

Sept. 8	at Arizona	L	17-18
Sept. 14	Seattle	W	30-21
Sept. 21	at Buffalo	W	22-10
Sept. 28	Jacksonville	W	33-14
Oct. 5	N.Y. Jets	W	31-0
Oct. 12	at Oakland	W	31-28
Oct. 19	Kansas City	L	20-23
Oct. 23	at Denver	L	21-35
Nov. 2	at Miami	L	0-37
Nov. 16	Oakland	W	13-6
Nov. 23	St. Louis	W	27-24
Nov. 30	at Baltimore	W	34-33
Dec. 7	New England	L	14-23
Dec. 14	Denver	L	10-22
Dec. 20	at San Francisco (ot)	W	38-35
Dec. 28	at Kansas City	L	7-19

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

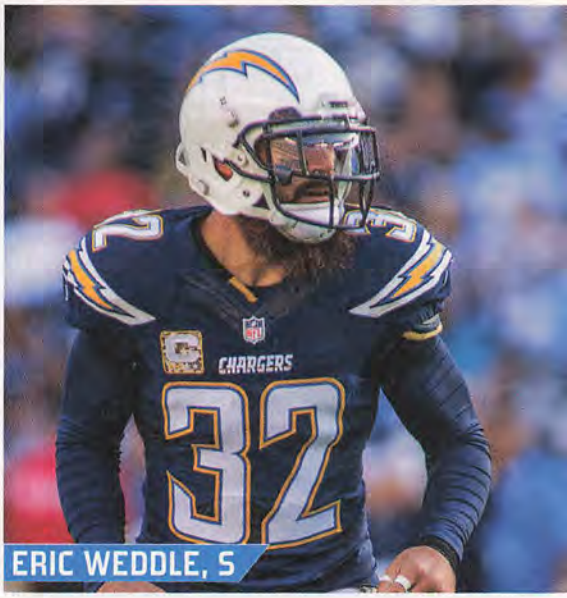
PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Philip Rivers	570	379	4,286	31	18
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Branden Oliver	160	582	3.6	3	
Donald Brown	85	223	2.6	0	
Ryan Mathews	74	330	4.5	3	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Keenan Allen	77	783	10.2	4	
Antonio Gates	69	821	11.9	12	
Eddie Royal	62	778	12.5	7	
Malcom Floyd	52	856	16.5	6	
Branden Oliver	36	271	7.5	1	
Donald Brown	29	211	7.3	0	

KICKING: Nick Novak, 22-26 FGs, 40-40 PATs, 106 points
TACKLES: Eric Weddle, 114; Marcus Gilchrist, 76
SACKS: Corey Liuget, 4.5; Melvin Ingram, 4.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Brandon Flowers, 3; Four players tied with 1

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	341.6	18	9
Rushing	85.4	30	15
Passing	256.1	10	5
Scoring	21.8	17	7
Third Down %	45.1	4	1
Punt Returns	8.8	16	7
Kick Returns	22.2	22	12
TEAM DEFENSE	**Stat**	**NFL Rank**	**AFC Rank**
Total	338.3	9	6
Rushing	124.1	26	12
Passing	214.2	4	4
Scoring	21.8	T13	8
Interceptions	7	T28	13
Sacks	26	29	14
Turnover Differential	-5	T22	T11

Weddle stayed away from early offseason workouts, feeling disrespected because the team hasn't offered a contract extension. He's still growing his beard, vowing not to shave until the Chargers have won the Super Bowl. He will team with third-year pro Jahleel Addae, who started five games in 2014, and Jimmy Wilson. A San Diego native who went to Point Loma High School, Wilson signed with the Chargers as a free agent after spending his first four NFL seasons with Miami.



ERIC WEDDLE, S

SPECIALISTS The Chargers remain in good hands in this department with kicker Nick Novak and punter Mike Scifres, and they've added Jones to the mix as a kick returner. Eddie Royal left as a free agent, leaving Allen to handle punt returns. Novak had another strong season, making 22-of-26 field-goal attempts (84.6 percent). He ranks second in franchise history with an 86.3 field-goal percentage. His franchise-record streak of 32 consecutive field goals came to an end on Nov. 16 against Oakland when he missed from 48 yards, his first miss in just more than a year. However, he bounced back and hit a season-long 52 yarder. In a home game against New England on Dec. 7, Novak had to fill in as the team's punter for the first time in his career after Scifres suffered a shoulder injury. Novak hadn't punted in a game since high school, but he averaged 40 yards on six attempts with a long of 51 and one punt inside the 20. It was the first time since 2003 that someone other than Scifres had punted for the Bolts. San Diego could use a little more juice in the return game, and Jones, who has 10 career special teams touchdowns including a memorable 108-yard kickoff return in Super Bowl XLVII, could provide it.

FINAL ANALYSIS Rivers and the Chargers know exactly where they have to improve — in games against AFC West foes. The Chargers were swept by both the Denver Broncos and Kansas City Chiefs last year, beating only the lowly Oakland Raiders in the division. A lackluster effort at Kansas City in the finale, against backup quarterback Chase Daniel, cost the Chargers a playoff spot and had people wondering about their focus and motivation. A return to the playoffs isn't out of the question, especially with the addition of Gordon, but another third-place finish is just as likely.

CHARGERS IN THE DRAFT

B+

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Melvin Gordon	RB	6-1	215	Wisconsin
2.	Denzel Perryman	ILB	5-11	242	Miami
3.	Craig Mager	CB	5-11	200	Texas State
5.	Kyle Emanuel	OLB	6-3	246	North Dakota St.
6.	Darius Philon	DL	6-1	300	Arkansas

It was worth it to general manager Tom Telesco to pay a big price to move up two spots to take Melvin Gordon with the 15th pick overall. "We needed impact players and we got an impact player," Telesco said. NFL Hall of Famer Marshall Faulk offered his stamp of approval: "His work ethic is impeccable," said Faulk, who played at San Diego State. "And you will love what you see in him when you watch him play football. His passion and desire to be one of the greats — if not the greatest — is going to show immediately when you watch him play." Gordon will be counted on to help take the pressure off Philip Rivers. Telesco used his remaining four picks to add defensive depth. Denzel Perryman is considered a "thumper," which the Chargers desperately need at linebacker. Craig Mager is considered a project, but the Chargers like his toughness. Kyle Emanuel won the Buck Buchanan Award, given to the top defensive player in the FCS ranks. He won four national titles while at North Dakota State. Darius Philon, an early entrant, played a key role on the underrated Arkansas defense last season. He isn't likely to play much as a rookie but could develop into a late-round steal.

Weddle: Peter Brouillet; Gordon: Tom Lynn

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
10 Clemens, Kellen	QB	6-2	220	9	Oregon	FA-StL-14	D2-NYJ-06
17 Rivers, Philip	QB	6-5	228	11	NC State	T-NYG-04	D1-NYG-04
4 Sorensen, Brad	QB	6-5	230	2	Southern Utah	D7-13	D7-SD-13
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
34 Brown, Donald	RB	5-10	207	6	Connecticut	FA-Ind-14	D1-Ind-09
43 Oliver, Branden	RB	5-8	208	1	Buffalo	FA-14	FA-SD-14
39 Woodhead, Danny	RB	5-8	200	7	Chadron State	FA-NE-13	FA-NYJ-08
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
13 Allen, Keenan	WR	6-2	211	2	California	D3-13	D3-SD-13
3 Allen, Torrence	WR	6-0	183	1	West Texas A&M	FA-14	FA-SD-14
80 Floyd, Malcom	WR	6-5	225	9	Wyoming	FA-04	FA-SD-04
85 Gates, Antonio	TE	6-4	255	12	Kent State	FA-03	FA-SD-03
89 Green, Ladarius	TE	6-6	240	3	UL Lafayette	D4-12	D4-SD-12
8 Herndon, Javontee	WR	6-0	194	1	Arkansas	FA-14	FA-SD-14
15 Inman, Dontrelle	WR	6-3	205	1	Virginia	FA-14	FA-Jac-11
88 Johnson, David	TE	6-2	260	6	Arkansas State	FA-Pit-14	D7b-Pit-09
11 Johnson, Stevie	WR	6-2	207	7	Kentucky	FA-SF-15	D7b-Buf-08
12 Jones, Jacoby	WR	6-2	215	8	Lane	FA-Bal-15	D3-Hou-07
86 Miller, Kyle	TE	6-5	262	1	Mount Union	W-Atl-15	FA-Jac-11
81 Paulson, David	TE	6-4	246	3	Oregon	FA-14	D7-Pit-12
82 Pettis, Austin	WR	6-3	203	4	Boise State	FA-15	D3-StL-11
83 Phillips, John	TE	6-5	251	6	Virginia	FA-Dal-13	D6b-Dal-09
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
77 Dunlap, King	T	6-9	330	7	Auburn	FA-Phi-13	D7-Phi-08
76 Fluker, D.J.	T	6-5	339	2	Alabama	D1-13	D1-SD-13
74 Franklin, Orlando	G	6-7	320	4	Miami	FA-Den-15	D2b-Den-11
70 Hairston, Chris	T	6-6	330	3	Clemson	FA-Buf-15	D4b-Buf-11
69 Huey, Michael	G	6-5	310	1	Texas	FA-15	FA-Sea-11
68 Quigley, Bryce	T	6-5	310	1	San Diego State	FA-14	FA-Det-14
60 Robinson, Trevor	C	6-5	300	3	Notre Dame	FA-14	FA-Cin-12
75 Sirles, Jeremiah	G/T	6-6	315	1	Nebraska	FA-14	FA-SD-14
63 Troutman, Johnnie	G	6-4	330	2	Penn State	D5-12	D5-SD-12
65 Watt, Chris	C	6-2	311	1	Notre Dame	D3-14	D3-SD-14
64 Watts, Craig	G	6-4	335	1	West Texas A&M	FA-14	FA-SD-14
72 Wiggins, Kenny	G/T	6-6	314	2	Fresno State	FA-14	FA-SF-11
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
92 Carrethers, Ryan	NT	6-1	333	1	Arkansas State	D5-14	D5-SD-14
98 Lissemore, Sean	NT	6-3	303	5	William & Mary	T-Dal-13	D7-Dal-10
94 Liuget, Corey	DE	6-2	300	4	Illinois	D1-11	D1-SD-11
90 Mathews, Ricardo	DE	6-3	300	5	Cincinnati	FA-14	D7-Ind-10
72 Palepoi, Tenny	DT	6-1	298	1	Utah	FA-14	FA-SD-14
91 Reyes, Kendall	DE	6-4	300	3	Connecticut	D2-12	D2-SD-12
71 Square, Damion	DE	6-2	293	2	Alabama	W-KC-14	FA-Phi-13
73 Tjong-A-Tjoe, Ricky	DE	6-2	309	1	Boise State	FA-14	FA-SD-14
96 Unrein, Mitch	DT	6-4	306	4	Wyoming	FA-Den-15	FA-Hou-10
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
97 Attaochu, Jerry	OLB	6-3	252	1	Georgia Tech	D2-14	D2-SD-14
56 Butler, Donald	ILB	6-1	242	5	Washington	D3-10	D3-SD-10
53 Conner, Kavell	ILB	6-0	245	5	Clemson	FA-Ind-14	D7-Ind-10
54 Ingram, Melvin	OLB	6-2	265	3	South Carolina	D1-12	D1-SD-12
99 Law, Cordarro	OLB	6-1	255	1	Southern Miss	FA-14	FA-Sea-12
50 Te'o, Manti	ILB	6-1	241	2	Notre Dame	D2-13	D2-SD-13
49 Underwood, Colton	OLB	6-3	254	1	Illinois State	FA-14	FA-SD-14
58 Williams, Tourek	OLB	6-4	262	2	FIU	D6-13	D6-SD-13
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
37 Addae, Jahleel	S	5-10	195	2	Central Michigan	FA-13	FA-SD-13
35 Crawford, Richard	CB	5-11	192	3	SMU	FA-14	D7-Was-12
20 Davis, Chris	CB	5-10	201	1	Auburn	FA-14	FA-SD-14
33 Ducre, Greg	CB	5-10	183	1	Washington	FA-14	FA-SD-14
24 Flowers, Brandon	CB	5-9	187	7	Virginia Tech	FA-KC-14	D2-KC-08
27 Phillips, Adrian	S	5-11	210	1	Texas	FA-14	FA-SD-14
26 Robinson, Patrick	CB	5-11	191	5	Florida State	FA-NO-15	D1-NO-10
25 Stuckey, Darrell	S	5-11	212	5	Kansas	D4-10	D4-SD-10
22 Verrett, Jason	CB	5-10	178	1	TCU	D1-14	D1-SD-14
32 Weddle, Eric	FS	5-11	200	8	Utah	D2-07	D2-SD-07
23 Williams, Steve	CB	5-10	185	2	California	D5-13	D5-SD-13
27 Wilson, Jimmy	S	5-11	205	4	Montana	FA-Mia-15	D7b-Mia-11
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
9 Novak, Nick	K	6-0	198	7	Maryland	FA-12	FA-Chi-05
5 Scifres, Mike	P	6-2	215	12	Western Illinois	D5-03	D5-SD-03
47 Windt, Mike	LS	6-1	237	5	Cincinnati	FA-10	FA-Cin-10

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	80	Malcom Floyd
	12	Jacoby Jones
WR	13	Keenan Allen
	82	Austin Pettis
WR	11	Stevie Johnson
	82	Austin Pettis
LT	77	King Dunlap
	70	Chris Hairston
LG	74	Orlando Franklin
	64	Craig Watts
C	65	Chris Watt
	60	Trevor Robinson
RG	63	Johnnie Troutman
	72	Kenny Wiggins
RT	76	D.J. Fluker
	68	Bryce Quigley
TE	85	Antonio Gates
	89	Ladarius Green
QB	17	Philip Rivers
	10	Kellen Clemens
RB	28	Melvin Gordon (R)
	43	Branden Oliver

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	91	Kendall Reyes
	90	Ricardo Mathews
NT	98	Sean Lissemore
	92	Ryan Carrethers
DE	94	Corey Liuget
	71	Damion Square
OLB	58	Tourek Williams
	99	Cordarro Law
ILB	50	Manti Te'o
	52	Denzel Perryman (R)
ILB	56	Donald Butler
	53	Kavell Conner
OLB	54	Melvin Ingram
	97	Jerry Attaochu
CB	22	Jason Verrett
	26	Patrick Robinson
CB	22	Jason Verrett
	26	Patrick Robinson
SS	37	Jahleel Addae
	27	Jimmy Wilson
FS	32	Eric Weddle
	25	Darrell Stuckey

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Nick Novak
P	5	Mike Scifres
KR	12	Jacoby Jones
PR	13	Keenan Allen

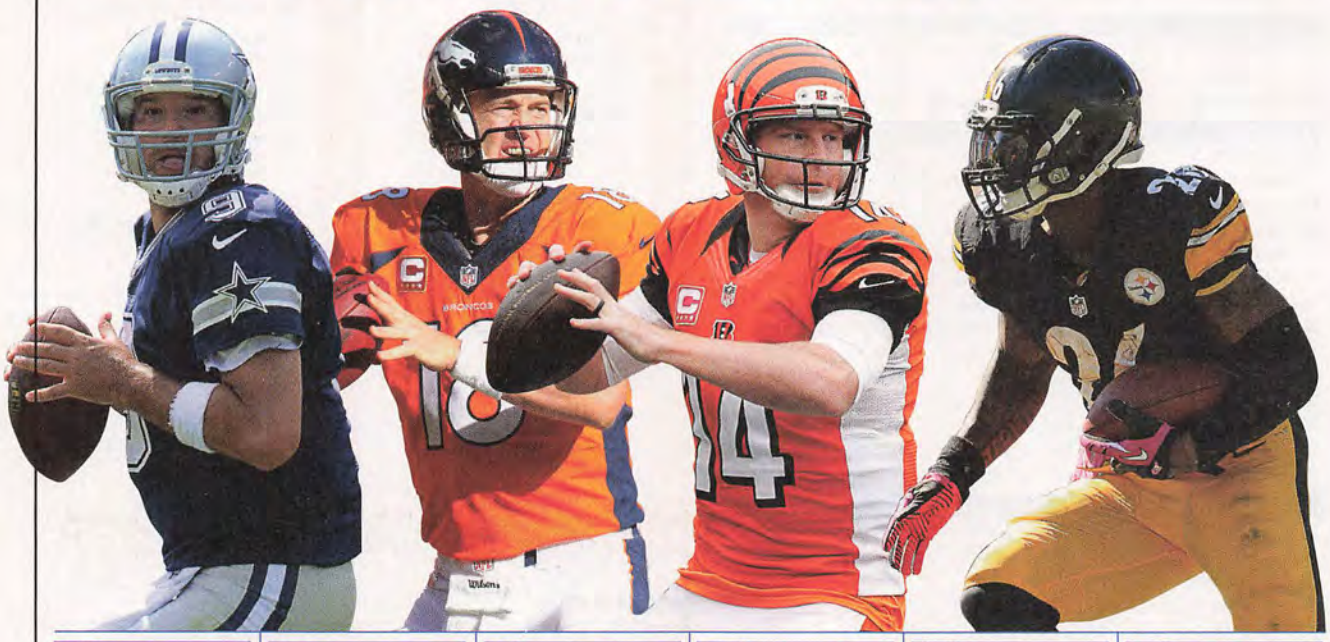
SCOUTING THE CHARGERS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP SAN DIEGO "Word got out this spring that quarterback Philip Rivers would play out his contract and was not interested in going to L.A., if in fact, the Chargers were on the move. Rumors swirled before the draft that San Diego would trade him to the Titans in exchange for the chance to pick Marcus Mariota at No. 2. ... Running back Ryan Mathews signed with the Eagles, so the Chargers moved up two spots in the draft for Melvin Gordon, who should help their running game. ... The offensive line has been surprisingly effective over the past two years, especially left tackle King Dunlap. He has far surpassed most scouts' expectations. ... Tight end Antonio Gates just keeps going but has indicated that 2015 will be his last season. ... Keenan Allen and Malcom Floyd give them a set of legitimate receivers. ... Most of the success of a 3-4 defense stems from the pass rush, and the Chargers were 29th in sacks with 26 last year. ... They are banking on Melvin Ingram and Jerry Attaochu to stay healthy and produce better results in 2015. ... The Chargers are smallish in the back end, but Jason Verrett is a nifty cover man who has to demonstrate that he can survive the rigors of the NFL. ... San Diego has won between seven and nine games for five straight seasons, and nothing seems to indicate that 2015 will be any different."

2015 SCHEDULE

Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	2014 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	Detroit	4:05	11-5	340.8 (19)	300.9 (2)	20.1 (22)	17.6 (2)
2	Sept. 20	at Cincinnati	1:00	10-5-1	348.0 (15)	359.3 (22)	22.8 (15)	21.5 (12)
3	Sept. 27	at Minnesota	1:00	7-9	315.5 (27)	344.7 (14)	20.3 (21)	21.4 (11)
4	Oct. 4	Cleveland	4:05	7-9	324.6 (23)	366.1 (23)	18.7 (27)	21.1 (9)
5	Oct. 12	Pittsburgh (Mon.)	8:30	11-5	411.1 (2)	353.4 (18)	27.3 (7)	23.0 (18)
6	Oct. 18	at Green Bay	4:25	12-4	386.1 (6)	346.4 (15)	30.4 (1)	21.8 (13)
7	Oct. 2	Oakland	4:05	3-13	282.2 (32)	357.6 (21)	15.8 (31)	28.3 (32)
8	Nov. 1	at Baltimore	1:00	10-6	364.9 (12)	336.9 (8)	25.6 (8)	18.9 (6)
9	Nov. 9	Chicago (Mon.)	8:30	5-11	327.1 (21)	377.1 (30)	19.9 (23)	27.6 (31)
10		BYE						
11	Nov. 22	Kansas City	8:30	9-7	318.8 (25)	330.5 (7)	22.1 (16)	17.6 (3)
12	Nov. 29	at Jacksonville	1:00	3-13	289.6 (31)	370.8 (26)	15.6 (32)	25.8 (26)
13	Dec. 6	Denver	4:05	12-4	402.9 (4)	305.2 (3)	30.1 (2)	22.1 (16)
14	Dec. 13	at Kansas City	1:00	9-7	318.8 (25)	330.5 (7)	22.1 (16)	17.6 (3)
15	Dec. 20	Miami	4:25	8-8	350.1 (14)	343.4 (12)	24.3 (11)	23.3 (20)
16	Dec. 24	at Oakland (Thu.)	8:25	3-13	282.2 (32)	357.6 (21)	15.8 (31)	28.3 (32)
17	Jan. 3	at Denver	4:25	12-4	402.9 (4)	305.2 (3)	30.1 (2)	22.1 (16)

2015 NFL SCHEDULES



WEEK 1

Thursday, Sept. 10
Pittsburgh at New England

Sunday, Sept. 13
Kansas City at Houston
Indianapolis at Buffalo
Green Bay at Chicago
Carolina at Jacksonville
Cleveland at N.Y. Jets
Miami at Washington
Seattle at St. Louis
Detroit at San Diego
New Orleans at Arizona
Cincinnati at Oakland
Baltimore at Denver
Tennessee at Tampa Bay
N.Y. Giants at Dallas

Monday, Sept. 14
Philadelphia at Atlanta
Minnesota at San Francisco

WEEK 2

Thursday, Sept. 17
Denver at Kansas City

Sunday, Sept. 20
Detroit at Minnesota
Arizona at Chicago
Tennessee at Cleveland
New England at Buffalo
Houston at Carolina
San Francisco at Pittsburgh
San Diego at Cincinnati
St. Louis at Washington
Atlanta at N.Y. Giants
Tampa Bay at New Orleans
Baltimore at Oakland
Miami at Jacksonville
Dallas at Philadelphia
Seattle at Green Bay

Monday, Sept. 21
N.Y. Jets at Indianapolis

WEEK 3

Thursday, Sept. 24
Washington at N.Y. Giants

Sunday, Sept. 27
San Diego at Minnesota
Oakland at Cleveland
Cincinnati at Baltimore
New Orleans at Carolina
Atlanta at Dallas
Tampa Bay at Houston
Indianapolis at Tennessee
Pittsburgh at St. Louis
Jacksonville at New England
Philadelphia at N.Y. Jets
San Francisco at Arizona
Chicago at Seattle
Buffalo at Miami
Denver at Detroit

Monday, Sept. 28
Kansas City at Green Bay

WEEK 4

Thursday, Oct. 1
Baltimore at Pittsburgh

Sunday, Oct. 4
N.Y. Jets at Miami
Oakland at Chicago
Houston at Atlanta
N.Y. Giants at Buffalo
Jacksonville at Indianapolis
Kansas City at Cincinnati
Philadelphia at Washington
Carolina at Tampa Bay
Cleveland at San Diego
St. Louis at Arizona
Minnesota at Denver
Green Bay at San Francisco
Dallas at New Orleans

Monday, Oct. 5
Detroit at Seattle

BYE: *Tennessee, New England*

WEEK 5

Thursday, Oct. 8
Indianapolis at Houston

Sunday, Oct. 11
Cleveland at Baltimore
St. Louis at Green Bay
Buffalo at Tennessee
New Orleans at Philadelphia
Washington at Atlanta
Seattle at Cincinnati
Chicago at Kansas City
Jacksonville at Tampa Bay
Arizona at Detroit
New England at Dallas
Denver at Oakland
San Francisco at N.Y. Giants

Monday, Oct. 12
Pittsburgh at San Diego

BYE: *Carolina, Miami, Minnesota, N.Y. Jets*

WEEK 6

Thursday, Oct. 15
Atlanta at New Orleans

Sunday, Oct. 18
Denver at Cleveland
Chicago at Detroit
Houston at Jacksonville
Cincinnati at Buffalo
Washington at N.Y. Jets
Kansas City at Minnesota
Arizona at Pittsburgh
Miami at Tennessee
Carolina at Seattle
Baltimore at San Francisco
San Diego at Green Bay
New England at Indianapolis

Monday, Oct. 19
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia

BYE: *Dallas, Oakland, St. Louis, Tampa Bay*

WEEK 7

Thursday, Oct. 22
Seattle at San Francisco

Sunday, Oct. 25
Buffalo at Jacksonville
Pittsburgh at Kansas City
Houston at Miami
Atlanta at Tennessee
Minnesota at Detroit
New Orleans at Indianapolis
N.Y. Jets at New England
Cleveland at St. Louis
Tampa Bay at Washington
Oakland at San Diego
Dallas at N.Y. Giants
Philadelphia at Carolina

Monday, Oct. 26
Baltimore at Arizona

BYE: *Chicago, Cincinnati, Denver, Green Bay*

WEEK 8

Thursday, Oct. 29
Miami at New England

Sunday, Nov. 1
Detroit at Kansas City
Minnesota at Chicago
Arizona at Cleveland
San Diego at Baltimore
N.Y. Giants at New Orleans
Tennessee at Houston
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
San Francisco at St. Louis
Tampa Bay at Atlanta
N.Y. Jets at Oakland
Seattle at Dallas
Green Bay at Denver

Monday, Nov. 2
Indianapolis at Carolina

BYE: *Buffalo, Jacksonville, Philadelphia, Washington*

WEEK 9

Thursday, Nov. 5
Cleveland at Cincinnati

Sunday, Nov. 8
Oakland at Pittsburgh
Green Bay at Carolina
Washington at New England
Tennessee at New Orleans
Jacksonville at N.Y. Jets
St. Louis at Minnesota
Miami at Buffalo
Atlanta at San Francisco
N.Y. Giants at Tampa Bay
Denver at Indianapolis
Philadelphia at Dallas

Monday, Nov. 9
Chicago at San Diego

BYE: *Arizona, Baltimore, Detroit, Kansas City, Seattle, Houston*

WEEK 10

Thursday, Nov. 12
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets

Sunday, Nov. 15
Detroit at Green Bay
Jacksonville at Baltimore
Chicago at St. Louis
Cleveland at Pittsburgh
Carolina at Tennessee
New Orleans at Washington
Dallas at Tampa Bay
Miami at Philadelphia
Minnesota at Oakland
Kansas City at Denver
New England at N.Y. Giants
Arizona at Seattle

Monday, Nov. 16
Houston at Cincinnati

BYE: *Atlanta, Indianapolis, San Diego, San Francisco*

WEEK 11

Thursday, Nov. 19
Tennessee at Jacksonville

Sunday, Nov. 22
St. Louis at Baltimore
Washington at Carolina
Denver at Chicago
Oakland at Detroit
Green Bay at Minnesota
Indianapolis at Atlanta
Dallas at Miami
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia
N.Y. Jets at Houston
Cincinnati at Arizona
San Francisco at Seattle
Kansas City at San Diego

Monday, Nov. 23
Buffalo at New England

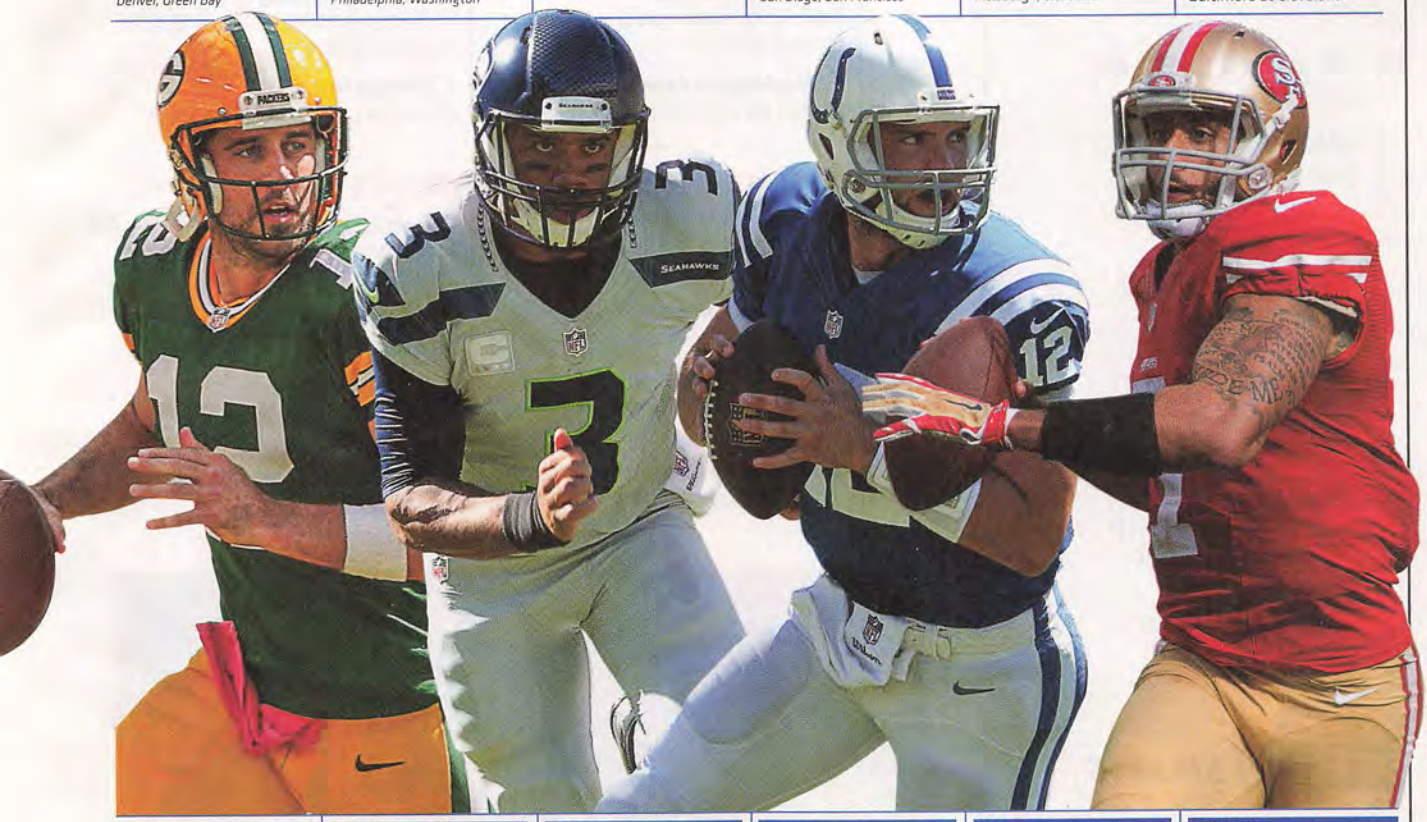
BYE: *New Orleans, N.Y. Giants, Pittsburgh, Cleveland*

WEEK 12

Thursday, Nov. 26
Philadelphia at Detroit
Carolina at Dallas
Chicago at Green Bay

Sunday, Nov. 29
New Orleans at Houston
Buffalo at Kansas City
San Diego at Jacksonville
Minnesota at Atlanta
Miami at N.Y. Jets
N.Y. Giants at Washington
Oakland at Tennessee
St. Louis at Cincinnati
Tampa Bay at Indianapolis
Arizona at San Francisco
Pittsburgh at Seattle
New England at Denver

Monday, Nov. 30
Baltimore at Cleveland



WEEK 13

Thursday, Dec. 3
Green Bay at Detroit

Sunday, Dec. 6
Seattle at Minnesota
Cincinnati at Cleveland
Baltimore at Miami
Houston at Buffalo
San Francisco at Chicago
Jacksonville at Tennessee
Atlanta at Tampa Bay
Arizona at St. Louis
N.Y. Jets at N.Y. Giants
Carolina at New Orleans
Denver at San Diego
Kansas City at Oakland
Philadelphia at New England
Indianapolis at Pittsburgh

Monday, Dec. 7
Dallas at Washington

WEEK 14

Thursday, Dec. 10
Minnesota at Arizona

Sunday, Dec. 13
Atlanta at Carolina
Buffalo at Philadelphia
New England at Houston
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
Washington at Chicago
San Francisco at Cleveland
Indianapolis at Jacksonville
San Diego at Kansas City
Tennessee at N.Y. Jets
Detroit at St. Louis
New Orleans at Tampa Bay
Oakland at Denver
Dallas at Green Bay
Seattle at Baltimore

Monday, Dec. 14
N.Y. Giants at Miami

WEEK 15

Thursday, Dec. 17
Tampa Bay at St. Louis

Saturday, Dec. 19
N.Y. Jets at Dallas

Sunday, Dec. 20
Carolina at N.Y. Giants
Tennessee at New England
Kansas City at Baltimore
Atlanta at Jacksonville
Chicago at Minnesota
Houston at Indianapolis
Arizona at Philadelphia
Buffalo at Washington
Cleveland at Seattle
Green Bay at Oakland
Denver at Pittsburgh
Miami at San Diego
Cincinnati at San Francisco

Monday, Dec. 21
Detroit at New Orleans

WEEK 16

Thursday, Dec. 24
San Diego at Oakland

Saturday, Dec. 26
Washington at Philadelphia

Sunday, Dec. 27
San Francisco at Detroit
Cleveland at Kansas City
Houston at Tennessee
Jacksonville at New Orleans
New England at N.Y. Jets
Carolina at Atlanta
Chicago at Tampa Bay
Dallas at Buffalo
N.Y. Giants at Minnesota
Indianapolis at Miami
St. Louis at Seattle
Green Bay at Arizona
Pittsburgh at Baltimore

Monday, Dec. 28
Cincinnati at Denver

WEEK 17

Sunday, Jan. 3
New Orleans at Atlanta
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo
Washington at Dallas
Tennessee at Indianapolis
Tampa Bay at Carolina
Detroit at Chicago
Pittsburgh at Cleveland
Minnesota at Green Bay
Oakland at Kansas City
New England at Miami
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants
Baltimore at Cincinnati
Jacksonville at Houston
Seattle at Arizona
San Diego at Denver
St. Louis at San Francisco

POSTSEASON

Saturday, Jan. 9 and Sunday, Jan. 10
AFC and NFC Wild Card Playoffs (ESPN, CBS, FOX, NBC)

Saturday, Jan. 16 and Sunday, Jan. 17
AFC and NFC Divisional Playoffs (CBS, FOX, NBC)

Sunday, Jan. 24
AFC and NFC Championship Games (CBS, FOX)

Sunday, Jan. 31
Pro Bowl (ESPN)

Sunday, Feb. 7
Super Bowl 50
Santa Clara, Calif. (CBS)

Romo, Beckham: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports; Manning: Tim Umphrey; Dalton: Sportfolio; Winston: Tampa Bay Buccaneers; Forte: Tom Lynn
Bell, Quinn, Rodgers, Luck, Wilson: Tom DiPace; Kaepernick: Peter Brouillet

2015 NFC PREDICTIONS

NFC PLAYOFF SEEDING

1. PACKERS
2. SEAHAWKS
3. COWBOYS
4. SAINTS
5. EAGLES
6. CARDINALS

WILD CARD

COWBOYS OVER CARDINALS
EAGLES OVER SAINTS

DIVISIONAL ROUND

PACKERS OVER EAGLES
SEAHAWKS OVER COWBOYS

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP

PACKERS OVER SEAHAWKS

SUPER BOWL 50

PACKERS OVER COLTS

ATHLON SPORTS

NFC POWER RANKINGS

1. PACKERS
2. SEAHAWKS
3. COWBOYS
4. EAGLES
5. CARDINALS
6. SAINTS
7. LIONS
8. RAMS
9. VIKINGS
10. GIANTS
11. PANTHERS
12. FALCONS
13. 49ERS
14. BEARS
15. REDSKINS
16. BUCS

NOTE: Athlon's Power Rankings and playoff seedings differ to some degree because a team's overall strength and its ultimate finish in the standings do not always correlate.

NFC EAST

1. Dallas Cowboys
They can go as far as Tony Romo's back allows.

2. Philadelphia Eagles
Chip Kelly betting on Sam Bradford staying healthy.

3. New York Giants
Another losing season would almost surely end the Coughlin Era.

4. Washington Redskins
No longer just looking for the quick fix.

NFC NORTH

1. Green Bay Packers
Insist they won't use blowing the NFC title game as motivation.

2. Detroit Lions
Returned to playoffs, but big pieces now lost from dominant defense.

3. Minnesota Vikings
Adrian Peterson returns, but Teddy Bridgewater must keep developing.

4. Chicago Bears
John Fox has a tall task to turn Bears around.

NFC SOUTH

1. New Orleans Saints
Defense should get better, but how much does Drew Brees have left?

2. Carolina Panthers
Can they make it three division titles in a row?

3. Atlanta Falcons
New coach Dan Quinn must work magic with defense.

4. Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Got their man in Jameis Winston. Can he deliver?

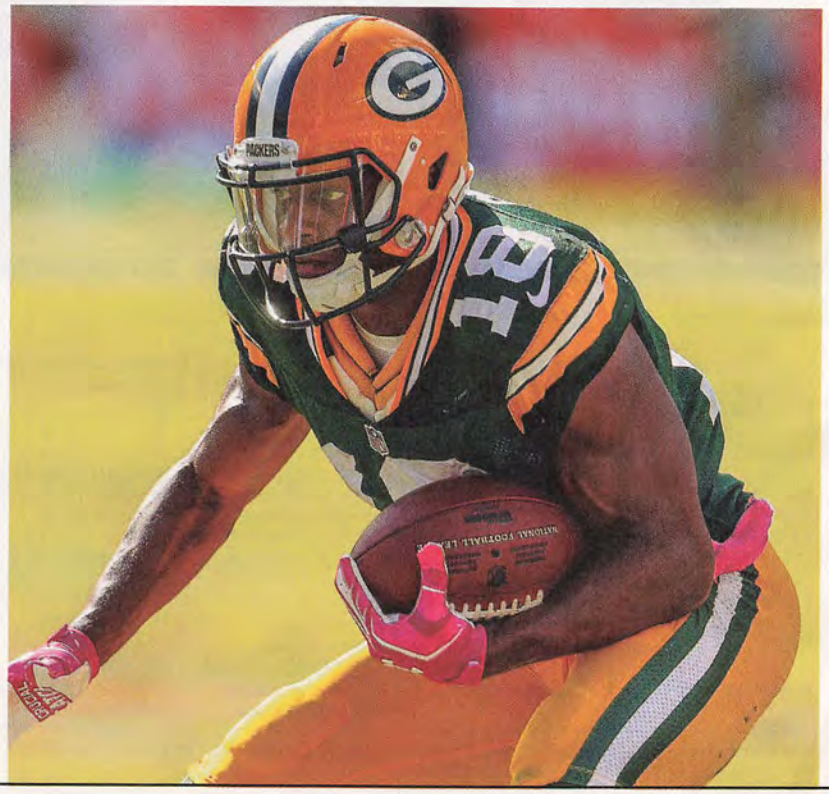
NFC WEST

1. Seattle Seahawks
Jimmy Graham is a weapon unlike any Russell Wilson has had in Seattle.

2. Arizona Cardinals
Dangerous when Carson Palmer is healthy.

3. St. Louis Rams
Defense is ready; can the offense catch up?

4. San Francisco 49ers
Can't blame Jim Harbaugh anymore if they keep falling.



Cobb: Tom DiPace; Campbell: Tim Umphrey

NFC COORDINATOR CAROUSEL

ARIZONA CARDINALS
Defensive Coordinator
Old: Todd Bowles **New:** James Bettcher
Bettcher was promoted to defensive coordinator after Bowles left to become the Jets head coach. He had served under Bowles as the Cardinals outside linebackers coach the past two seasons.

ATLANTA FALCONS
Defensive Coordinator
Old: Mike Nolan **New:** Richard Smith
This marks Smith's third stint as a defensive coordinator. He also has served in this capacity for both the Dolphins (2005) and Texans (2006-08).

ATLANTA FALCONS
Offensive Coordinator
Old: Dirk Koetter **New:** Kyle Shanahan
Shanahan resigned from his position with the Browns last year due to an apparent disagreement over Johnny Manziel's NFL readiness. That won't be an issue with two-time Pro Bowler Matt Ryan entrenched under center for the Falcons. Prior to the Browns, Shanahan served as the offensive coordinator for the Redskins (2010-13) and Texans (2008-09).

CHICAGO BEARS
Defensive Coordinator
Old: Mel Tucker **New:** Vic Fangio
A casualty of the Jim Harbaugh break-up in San Francisco, Fangio will now turn his attention to fixing one of the NFL's worst defenses over the past two seasons. In each of Fangio's four seasons with the 49ers, his defense ranked among the top 10 in both yards and points allowed, and only one of those finishes (2014, scoring defense, 10th) was outside of the top five.

CHICAGO BEARS
Offensive Coordinator
Old: Aaron Kromer **New:** Adam Gase
Gase has been reunited with John Fox in Chicago after serving as the Broncos' offensive coordinator the past two seasons. After forming a prolific partnership with Peyton Manning, Gase will try to replicate some of that same success with the embattled Jay Cutler.

GREEN BAY PACKERS
Offensive Coordinator
Old: Tom Clements **New:** Edgar Bennett
Since he was hired in 2006, head coach Mike McCarthy had called the plays for the Packers' productive offense. That will change this season following the promotion of Clements to associate head coach (offense). To replace Clements, McCarthy turned to Bennett, who has been Green Bay's wide receivers coach since 2011.

NEW YORK GIANTS
Defensive Coordinator
Old: Perry Fewell **New:** Steve Spagnuolo
Fewell was fired after five seasons, opening the door for Spagnuolo's return after serving as the Giants' defensive coordinator from 2007-08. His first season on Tom Coughlin's staff culminated with a victory over previously undefeated New England, the No. 1 scoring team in NFL history at that time, in Super Bowl XLII.

ST. LOUIS RAMS
Offensive Coordinator
Old: Brian Schottenheimer **New:** Frank Cignetti Jr.
Following Schottenheimer's decision to join Mark Richt's staff at Georgia, Rams head coach Jeff Fisher promoted Cignetti, his quarterbacks coach the past three seasons. Cignetti will handle play calling, while working closely with Rob Boras, associate head coach (offense), who will continue to coach tight ends and also be heavily involved with the run game.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS
Defensive Coordinator
Old: Vic Fangio **New:** Eric Mangini
The 49ers' tight ends coach the past two seasons, Mangini was tabbed to oversee the defense by new head coach Jim Tomsula. Mangini, the former head coach of the Jets (2006-08) and Browns (2009-10), last served as a defensive coordinator for the Patriots in 2005.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS
Offensive Coordinator
Old: Greg Roman **New:** Geep Chryst
The team's quarterbacks coach the past four seasons, Chryst was elevated to offensive coordinator by new head coach Jim Tomsula. Chryst previously served as the Chargers' offensive coordinator from 1999-2000. He's the brother of Wisconsin head coach Paul Chryst.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS
Defensive Coordinator
Old: Dan Quinn **New:** Kris Richard
The Seahawks' defensive backs coach the past three seasons, Richard will expand his oversight beyond the "Legion of Boom" this season. A former third-round pick of the Seahawks in the 2002 draft, Richard has ties to head coach Pete Carroll that go back to his senior season at USC.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS
Offensive Coordinator
Old: Jeff Tedford/Marcus Arroyo (interim) **New:** Dirk Koetter
Atlanta's offensive coordinator the past three seasons, Koetter will have to make the transition from having Pro Bowler Matt Ryan as his quarterback to No. 1 overall pick Jameis Winston. A head coach at Boise State and Arizona State, Koetter first came to the NFL as the Jaguars' offensive coordinator from 2007-11.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS
Defensive Coordinator
Old: Jim Haslett **New:** Joe Barry
Barry comes to the Redskins after serving as the Chargers' linebackers coach the past four seasons. This is Barry's second go-round as a defensive coordinator, after overseeing the Lions' defense from 2007-08.

Offensive Player of the Year
AARON RODGERS, QB, PACKERS

Defensive Player of the Year
CALAIS CAMPBELL, DE, CARDINALS

Comeback Player of the Year
ADRIAN PETERSON, RB, VIKINGS

Offensive Rookie of the Year
JAMEIS WINSTON, QB, BUCCANEERS

Defensive Rookie of the Year
TRAE WAYNES, CB, VIKINGS

Coach of the Year
BRUCE ARIANS, CARDINALS

DALLAS COWBOYS

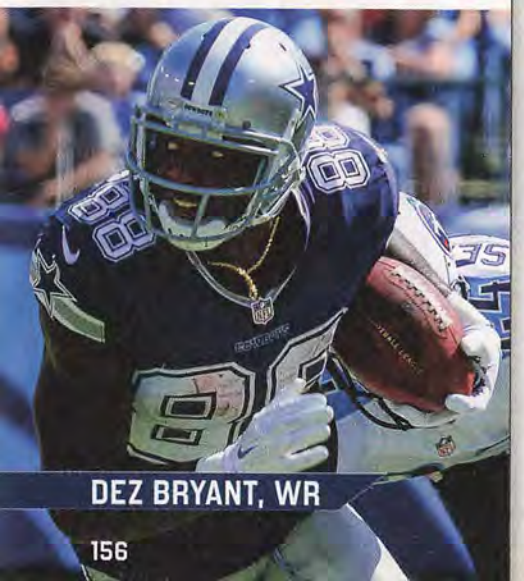
THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Jason Garrett
RECORD WITH TEAM: 41–31
CAREER RECORD: 41–31
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Scott Linehan
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Rod Marinelli
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Rich Bisaccia
QUARTERBACKS: Wade Wilson
RUNNING BACKS: Gary Brown
WIDE RECEIVERS: Derek Dooley
OFFENSIVE LINE: Frank Pollack
TIGHT ENDS: Mike Pope
DEFENSIVE ENDS: Ben Bloom
DEFENSIVE TACKLES: Leon Lett
LINEBACKERS: Matt Eberflus
SECONDARY: Jerome Henderson

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2010	6
2011	8
2012	8
2013	8
2014	12

Playoffs



DEZ BRYANT, WR

1 NFC EAST FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER: Jerry Jones
COO/EXECUTIVE VP/DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL: Stephen Jones
DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION: Todd Williams
DIRECTOR OF PRO SCOUTING: Judd Garrett
STADIUM: AT&T Stadium (80,000)
SURFACE: Matrix Artificial Turf
WEBSITE: www.dallascowboys.com
TICKETS: 817-892-5000
TRAINING CAMP: River Ridge Playing Fields (Oxnard, Calif.)

Twenty years have passed since the Cowboys last raised the Vince Lombardi Trophy. They have had only nine winning seasons since, with a 158–146 regular-season record and a 3–8 postseason mark. Yet, Jerry Jones has never lost faith.

This year begins no differently, although the Cowboys owner actually has reason to believe. The team has turned the momentum from last season into real, live Super Bowl hopes. The Cowboys saw a healthy Tony Romo for the first time in three offseasons. They welcome back the same offensive and defensive coordinators for the first time in four years. The league's best offensive line returns intact. They helped their defense with some offseason additions. "I like the future of this team," Jones says.

There's nothing like the present, though.

OFFENSE The Cowboys believe as long as they have Romo, they have a chance. Romo underwent two back surgeries in two years, and last season he missed a game with two fractures in his transverse process. But he entered the offseason fully healed. Despite throwing for only 3,705 yards, Romo had one of the best seasons of his career with a 12–3 record, 34 touchdowns and nine interceptions. He led the league in completion percentage (69.9), yards per attempt (8.5), passer rating (113.2) and game-winning drives (five), putting his name in the MVP conversation. The Cowboys insist that Romo, 35, has a few good years left. They sought to upgrade their backup quarterback situation, but it appears Brandon Weeden will once again be the No. 2 signal caller..

The Cowboys took pressure off Romo last season by running the ball 508 times (vs. 506 pass plays). They'll continue that approach in 2015, even though the league's leading rusher, DeMarco Murray, left for Philadelphia in free agency. The only change likely comes in how many carries the rushing leader gets. Running back-by-committee appears likely with Joseph Randle, Darren McFadden, Lance Dunbar and Ryan Williams competing for roster spots, playing time and carries. Randle showed signs last season as Murray's primary backup, averaging 6.7 yards per carry, but he had only 51 attempts. McFadden, the No. 4 overall pick in 2008, gets a new start with a new team after seven injury-plagued seasons in Oakland. He played a full 16-game season for the first time in his career in 2014.

Jason Witten, 33, made his 10th Pro Bowl in 2014. Now in his 13th season, he shows no signs of slowing down. Witten remains Romo's security blanket, and the tight end ranked second on the team in catches (64) and receiving yards (703) last season.

Dez Bryant became one of the top receivers in the NFL last season, earning All-Pro honors with 88 catches for 1,320 yards and 16 touchdowns. Terrance Williams had stretches where he disappeared, but he averaged 16.8 yards per catch and caught eight touchdowns. Romo trusted Cole Beasley as much as Bryant on third down, and Beasley won the job as the third receiver and a new payday at the end of the season.

Having used three first-round picks on offensive linemen since 2011, the Cowboys have built arguably the league's best line. Zack Martin, who had never played guard until the Cowboys moved him there after drafting him 16th overall last year, earned Pro Bowl honors as a rookie. He was joined by former first-rounders Travis Frederick (center) and Tyron Smith (left tackle) in the all-star game. The Cowboys kept their line intact by re-signing right tackle Doug Free to a three-year, $15 million deal and left guard Ron Leary to a one-year, $585,000 deal. They drafted Chaz Green in the third round to replace swing tackle Jermey Parnell and signed La'el Collins as a free agent after the projected first-rounder went undrafted due to some legal issues.

DEFENSE The Cowboys' biggest offseason move was the signing of defensive end Greg Hardy. Dallas had only 28 sacks last season; Hardy had double-digit sacks in 2012 and '13 but played only one game last season before going on the commissioner's exempt list. He will serve an NFL-mandated 10-game suspension, which is why the Cowboys drafted talented pass-rusher Randy Gregory in the second round. Demarcus Lawrence, who missed nine games with a broken foot as a rookie last season, will start at left end. Jeremy Mincey, Jack Crawford and Ben Gardner, who spent his rookie season on injured reserve, will compete for playing time in the team's rotation. The Cowboys moved Tyrone Crawford from defensive end to the three-technique last season and were happy with the results. He had three sacks and was solid against the run. Nick Hayden re-signed to play the nose. Terrell McClain also will see playing time in the defensive tackle rotation.

Sean Lee has missed 34 games in his five-year career, including all 16 games last season

Romo, Bryant: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports; Cheerleader: AP

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

DEZ'S FUTURE The Cowboys have loosened the reins on star receiver Dez Bryant. The team helped with Bryant's transition into the NFL, providing him with a list of guidelines and an overseer. But Bryant severed ties with former business associates, including advisor David Wells, after changing agents at midseason. The Cowboys and Bryant's reps, Jay-Z's Roc Nation, remain far apart in their contract negotiations. Dallas franchised Bryant, who, in return, is skipping the team's voluntary offseason workouts.

HARDY'S SUSPENSION The league suspended defensive end Greg Hardy for 10 games for conduct detrimental to the game. The NFLPA filed an appeal, seeking to reduce the suspension. Commissioner Roger Goodell said his staff met with Hardy twice during an extensive two-month investigation. The league determined Hardy used physical force against his ex-girlfriend, Nicole Holder, in at least four instances. Hardy made $13.1 million last year with the Carolina Panthers, playing only one game before being placed on the commissioner's exempt list. He signed with the Cowboys as a free agent.

CLAIBORNE'S FUTURE The Cowboys declined to pick up the fifth-year option on Morris Claiborne's contract. The cornerback, the sixth overall pick in the 2012 draft, had been in line for a base salary of $11 million in 2016 if the Cowboys had exercised the option year. The oft-injured Claiborne hopes to return during training camp after tearing the patellar tendon in his left knee last season. He has played only 29 games and intercepted only three passes.

KINGS OF THE EAST The Cowboys added an 18th NFC East title last season, most of any team in the division. The Eagles have won nine division titles and the Giants and the Redskins eight each. The St. Louis/Arizona Cardinals won two NFC East titles before changing divisions.

WINNER, WINNER Jason Garrett should become the second-winningest coach in team history this season. He has 41 victories, trailing only Jimmy Johnson (44) and Tom Landry (250). Garrett has a .569 winning percentage (41–31).

FOURTH-QUARTER RATING Tony Romo's 102.0 passer rating in the fourth quarter ranks as the second-highest in NFL history, trailing only Aaron Rodgers (102.2). Next on the list are Steve Young (97.9), Kurt Warner (91.9) and Tom Brady (91.5).

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
LB	Jasper Brinkley	Minnesota
DE	Greg Hardy	Carolina
RB	Darren McFadden	Oakland

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
LB	Bruce Carter	Tampa Bay
LB	Justin Durant	Atlanta
CB	Sterling Moore	Tampa Bay
RB	DeMarco Murray	Philadelphia
OT	Jermey Parnell	Jacksonville
DE	George Selvie	N.Y. Giants
DE	Anthony Spencer	New Orleans

TONY ROMO, QB

2014 RESULTS (12-4)

Sept. 7	San Francisco	L	17-28
Sept. 14	at Tennessee	W	26-10
Sept. 21	at St. Louis	W	34-31
Sept. 28	New Orleans	W	38-17
Oct. 5	Houston (ot)	W	20-17
Oct. 12	at Seattle	W	30-23
Oct. 19	N.Y. Giants	W	31-21
Oct. 27	Washington (ot)	L	17-20
Nov. 2	Arizona	L	17-28
Nov. 9	at Jacksonville	W	31-17
Nov. 23	at N.Y. Giants	W	31-28
Nov. 27	Philadelphia	L	10-33
Dec. 4	at Chicago	W	41-28
Dec. 14	at Philadelphia	W	38-27
Dec. 21	Indianapolis	W	42-7
Dec. 28	at Washington	W	44-17
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 4	Detroit	W	24-20
Jan. 11	at Green Bay	L	21-26

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Tony Romo	435	304	3,705	34	9
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
DeMarco Murray	392	1,845	4.7	13	
Joseph Randle	51	343	6.7	3	
Lance Dunbar	29	99	3.4	0	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Dez Bryant	88	1,320	15.0	16	
Jason Witten	64	703	11.0	5	
DeMarco Murray	57	416	7.3	0	
Cole Beasley	37	420	11.4	4	
Terrance Williams	37	621	16.8	8	
Lance Dunbar	18	217	12.1	0	

KICKING: Dan Bailey, 25-29 FGs, 56-56 PATs, 131 points
TACKLES: Barry Church, 97; Rolando McClain, 81
SACKS: Jeremy Mincey, 6.0; Henry Melton, 5.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Bruce Carter, 5; J.J. Wilcox, 3

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	383.6	7	4
Rushing	147.1	2	2
Passing	236.5	16	10
Scoring	29.2	5	3
Third Down %	47.3	2	2
Punt Returns	9.2	13	8
Kick Returns	23.9	13	6

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	355.1	19	8
Rushing	103.1	8	4
Passing	251.9	26	11
Scoring	22.0	15	7
Interceptions	18	T7	T3
Sacks	28	28	15
Turnover Differential	+6	T9	6

after tearing the ACL in his left knee on the first day of OTAs. Lee, who has two 100-tackle seasons and 11 career interceptions, will move from middle linebacker to the weak side, the most important linebacker position in the Tampa 2. The Cowboys re-signed Rolando McClain to man the middle, and Anthony Hitchens, who started at all three linebacker positions among 11 starts as a rookie, leads the candidates at strong-side linebacker.

JASON WITTEN, TE

The Cowboys tried to shore up their cornerback position before the 2012 season when they signed Brandon Carr and traded up in the draft to select Morris Claiborne. But Carr hasn't lived up to the contract, and the Cowboys are expected to ask him to take a pay cut, which could lead to his release. Claiborne missed 12 games last season with a ruptured patellar tendon in his left knee. Even when healthy, Claiborne has done nothing to give the Cowboys an indication that he ever will develop into a shutdown corner. Orlando Scandrick has become the team's most reliable player at the position, but he did not participate in voluntary offseason workouts while seeking a raise. The Cowboys drafted Byron Jones with their first-round pick and expect him to play a big role as a rookie. Starting safeties J.J. Wilcox and Barry Church rarely make game-changing plays but rarely give up big plays and are sure tacklers.

SPECIALISTS Dan Bailey ranks as the second-most accurate placekicker in NFL history, converting 89.8 percent of his career kicks. He has nine game-winning kicks, including five in overtime, in his career. Dallas re-signed punter Chris Jones, who had a 39.8 net average last season, though Australian Tom Hornsey will compete for the job. The Cowboys will go into training camp looking for return specialists to replace Dwayne Harris.

FINAL ANALYSIS Jason Garrett kept his job with an unexpected playoff run last season; he'll be expected to produce even more this season. The Cowboys kept defensive coordinator Rod Marinelli and offensive play-caller Scott Linehan. The addition of Hardy should help the pass rush, but a big question remains about how the Cowboys will replace Murray. They should contend for the division title, but the NFC title still might be a few more good players away.

COWBOYS IN THE DRAFT

B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Byron Jones	CB	6-1	199	Connecticut
2.	Randy Gregory	DE	6-5	235	Nebraska
3.	Chaz Green	OT	6-5	314	Florida
4.	Damien Wilson	LB	6-0	245	Minnesota
5.	Ryan Russell	DE	6-4	269	Purdue
7.	Mark Nzeocha	OLB	6-2	232	Wyoming
7.	Laurence Gibson	OT	6-6	305	Virginia Tech
7.	Geoff Swaim	TE	6-4	250	Texas

The Cowboys were intent on helping a defense that ranked 19th overall last season and had only 28 sacks. It marked the first time in their draft history that they came out of a draft without a skill-position player. Five of eight picks, including their top two choices, were defensive players. With the uncertainty at the corner position, Dallas used the No. 27 overall choice on Byron Jones. He could end up seeing significant playing time with Morris Claiborne returning from serious knee surgery combined with the unresolved contract statuses of starters Brandon Carr and Orlando Scandrick. Randy Gregory could prove to be a second-round steal, falling to the Cowboys after testing positive for marijuana at the NFL Scouting Combine in February. Chaz Green becomes the swing tackle, replacing Jermey Parnell, who left in free agency, and Damien Wilson gets a shot at a position where the Cowboys have had an inordinate number of injuries the past few seasons.

Witten: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports; Jones: AP

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
9 Romo, Tony	QB	6-2	230	12	Eastern Illinois	FA-03	FA-Dal-03
10 Vaughan, Dustin	QB	6-5	235	1	West Texas A&M	FA-14	FA-Dal-14
3 Weeden, Brandon	QB	6-3	228	3	Oklahoma State	FA-14	D1b-Cle-12
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
Agnew, Ray	FB	5-11	242	1	Southern Illinois	FA-Cle-15	FA-Cle-14
45 Collins, Jed	FB	6-1	252	4	Washington State	FA-Det-15	FA-Phi-08
25 Dunbar, Lance	RB	5-8	195	3	North Texas	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
84 Hanna, James	FB	6-4	260	3	Oklahoma	D6-12	D6-Dal-12
20 McFadden, Darren	RB	6-1	218	7	Arkansas	FA-Oak-15	D1-Oak-08
21 Randle, Joseph	RB	6-0	210	2	Oklahoma State	D5-13	D5-Dal-13
34 Williams, Ryan	RB	5-9	208	2	Virginia Tech	FA-Ari-14	D2-Ari-11
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
11 Beasley, Cole	WR	5-8	180	3	SMU	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
16 Boyd, Chris	WR	6-4	210	1	Vanderbilt	FA-14	FA-Dal-14
88 Bryant, Dez	WR	6-2	220	5	Oklahoma State	D1-10	D1-Dal-10
14 Dunn, Reggie	WR	5-9	178	1	Utah	FA-14	FA-Pit-13
89 Escobar, Gavin	TE	6-6	260	2	San Diego State	D2-13	D2-Dal-13
15 Street, Devin	WR	6-3	200	1	Pittsburgh	D5-14	D5-Dal-14
83 Williams, Terrance	WR	6-2	208	2	Baylor	D3a-13	D3a-Dal-13
82 Witten, Jason	TE	6-6	263	12	Tennessee	D3-03	D3-Dal-03
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
73 Bernadeau, Mackenzy	G/C	6-4	325	7	Bentley	FA-Car-12	D7c-Car-08
72 Frederick, Travis	C	6-3	315	2	Wisconsin	D1-13	D1-Dal-13
68 Free, Doug	T	6-6	325	8	Northern Illinois	D4b-07	D4b-Dal-07
71 Hawkins, Donald	T	6-4	310	1	Texas	W-Cle-14	FA-Phi-14
67 Hills, Tony	T	6-5	304	2	Texas	PS-Mia-14	D4-Pit-08
65 Leary, Ronald	G	6-3	320	2	Memphis	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
70 Martin, Zack	G	6-4	310	1	Notre Dame	D1-14	D1-Dal-14
77 Smith, Tyron	T	6-5	320	4	USC	D1-11	D1-Dal-11
75 Weems, Darrion	T	6-5	310	2	Oregon	PS-Den-12	FA-Min-12
61 Wetzel, John	T	6-7	315	1	Boston College	FA-14	FA-Oak-13
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
66 Bishop, Ken	DT	6-0	305	1	Northern Illinois	D7d-14	D7d-Dal-14
79 Boatright, Kenneth	DE	6-3	254	1	Southern Illinois	FA-14	FA-Sea-13
60 Coleman, Davon	DT	6-2	300	1	Arizona State	FA-14	FA-Dal-14
58 Crawford, Jack	DE	6-5	275	3	Penn State	FA-14	D5-Oak-12
98 Crawford, Tyrone	DT	6-4	285	3	Boise State	D3-12	D3-Dal-12
64 Edwards, Lavar	DE	6-4	278	2	LSU	T-Ten-14	D5-Ten-13
63 Gardner, Ben	DE	6-4	270	1	Stanford	D7a-14	D7a-Dal-14
76 Hardy, Greg	DE	6-4	279	4	Ole Miss	FA-Car-15	D6a-Car-10
96 Hayden, Nick	DT	6-4	303	7	Wisconsin	FA-13	D6-Car-08
90 Lawrence, DeMarcus	DE	6-3	260	1	Boise State	D2-14	D2-Dal-14
97 McClain, Terrell	DT	6-2	300	4	South Florida	FA-14	D3-Car-11
92 Mincey, Jeremy	DE	6-4	280	7	Florida	FA-Den-14	D6-NE-06
64 Whaley, Chris	DT	6-3	280	1	Texas	FA-14	FA-Dal-14
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
54 Brinkley, Jasper	LB	6-2	275	5	South Carolina	FA-Min-15	D5-Min-09
56 Davis, Troy	LB	6-2	251	2	UCF	FA-14	FA-NYJ-13
52 Gachkar, Andrew	LB	6-3	240	4	Missouri	FA-SD-15	D7-SD-11
59 Hitchens, Anthony	LB	6-0	235	1	Iowa	D4-14	D4-Dal-14
53 Lawrence, Cameron	LB	6-2	238	2	Mississippi State	FA-13	FA-Dal-13
50 Lee, Sean	LB	6-2	234	5	Penn State	D2-10	D2-Dal-10
55 McClain, Rolando	LB	6-4	259	4	Alabama	T-Bal-14	D1-Oak-10
48 Rivers, Keith	LB	6-2	235	6	USC	FA-Buf-15	D1-Cin-08
43 Smith, Keith	LB	6-0	232	1	San Jose State	FA-14	FA-Dal-14
40 Smith, Will	LB	6-2	230	1	Texas Tech	FA-14	D7-Dal-14
56 Watson, Dekoda	LB	6-2	240	5	Florida State	FA-14	D7-TB-10
51 Wilber, Kyle	LB	6-4	245	3	Wake Forest	D4a-12	D4a-Dal-12
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
39 Carr, Brandon	CB	6-0	210	7	Grand Valley State	FA-KC-12	D5-KC-08
42 Church, Barry	S	6-2	218	5	Toledo	FA-10	FA-Dal-10
24 Claiborne, Morris	CB	5-11	192	3	LSU	D1-12	D1-Dal-12
38 Heath, Jeff	S	6-1	212	2	Saginaw Valley St.	FA-13	FA-Dal-13
20 Patmon, Tyler	CB	5-10	185	1	Oklahoma State	FA-14	FA-Dal-14
32 Scandrick, Orlando	CB	5-10	196	7	Boise State	D5-08	D5-Dal-08
28 Steeples, Robert	CB	6-1	195	1	Memphis	FA-14	FA-StL-13
24 White, Corey	S	6-1	205	3	Samford	W-NO-15	D5-NO-12
27 Wilcox, J.J.	S	6-0	212	2	Georgia Southern	D3b-13	D3b-Dal-13
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
5 Bailey, Dan	K	6-0	195	4	Oklahoma State	FA-11	FA-Dal-11
1 Hornsey, Tom	P	6-3	217	1	Memphis	FA-15	FA-Dal-14
6 Jones, Chris	P	6-0	205	3	Carson Newman	FA-11	FA-Dal-11
49 Kreiter, Casey	LS	6-1	250	1	Iowa	FA-15	FA-Dal-14
91 Ladouceur, Louis-Philippe	LS	6-5	256	10	California	FA-05	FA-NO-05

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	88	Dez Bryant
	15	Devin Street
WR	83	Terrance Williams
	11	Cole Beasley
LT	77	Tyron Smith
	67	Laurence Gibson (R)
LG	65	Ronald Leary
	71	La'el Collins (R)
C	72	Travis Frederick
	73	Mackenzy Bernadeau
RG	70	Zack Martin
	73	Mackenzy Bernadeau,
RT	68	Doug Free
	79	Chaz Green (R)
TE	82	Jason Witten
	89	Gavin Escobar
QB	9	Tony Romo
	3	Brandon Weeden
FB	45	Jed Collins
	84	James Hanna
RB	20	Darren McFadden
	21	Joseph Randle

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	76	Greg Hardy
	94	Randy Gregory (R)
DT	98	Tyrone Crawford
	97	Terrell McClain
NT	96	Nick Hayden
	66	Ken Bishop
DE	90	Demarcus Lawrence
	92	Jeremy Mincey
SLB	59	Anthony Hitchens
	53	Cameron Lawrence
MLB	55	Rolando McClain
	56	Dekoda Watson
WLB	50	Sean Lee
	54	Jasper Brinkley
CB	39	Brandon Carr
	31	Byron Jones (R)
CB	32	Orlando Scandrick
	24	Morris Claiborne
SS	27	J.J. Wilcox
	38	Jeff Heath
FS	42	Barry Church
	38	Jeff Heath

SPECIALISTS

K	5	Dan Bailey
P	6	Chris Jones
KR	25	Lance Dunbar
PR	11	Cole Beasley

SCOUTING THE COWBOYS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP DALLAS "The pick of Zack Martin in last year's first round over Johnny Manziel showed a discipline and direction uncommon to the Cowboys since the Jimmy Johnson and Bill Parcells tenures. They wisely added to their offensive line, which helped the run game, protected Tony Romo better and gave some cover to their suspect defense. ... DeMarco Murray hit free agency, and again, Jerry Jones demonstrated new-found restraint and did not chase him beyond the predetermined budget. ... Tight end Jason Witten is one of the most competitive, consistent performers in the league. All he does is block, catch passes and lead by example. ... Terrance Williams flies under the radar, but he had 37 catches last year, eight of which went for scores, and Cole Beasley re-upped as their slot receiver, too, so they are set out wide. ... Jason Garrett and offensive coordinator Scott Linehan must stay balanced and lean on their run game to set up for success on third downs, rather than wanting to throw the football all over the lot. ... Defensive tackle Henry Melton took his five sacks to Tampa Bay as a free agent. ... The secondary needed a boost at cornerback because Brandon Carr has not produced big plays and Orlando Scandrick is better as a nickel than full-time starter, so they added UConn corner Byron Jones as their No. 1 choice."

2015 SCHEDULE

					2014 NFL RANKINGS			
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	N.Y. Giants	8:30	6-10	367.2 (10)	375.8 (29)	23.8 (13)	25.0 (22)
2	Sept. 20	at Philadelphia	4:25	10-6	396.8 (5)	375.6 (28)	29.6 (3)	25.0 (22)
3	Sept. 27	Atlanta	1:00	6-10	378.2 (8)	398.3 (32)	23.8 (12)	26.1 (27)
4	Oct. 4	at New Orleans	8:30	7-9	411.4 (1)	384.0 (31)	25.1 (9)	26.5 (28)
5	Oct. 11	New England	4:25	12-4	365.5 (11)	344.1 (13)	29.3 (4)	19.6 (8)
6		BYE						
7	Oct. 25	at N.Y. Giants	4:25	6-10	367.2 (10)	375.8 (29)	23.8 (13)	25.0 (22)
8	Nov. 1	Seattle	4:25	12-4	375.8 (9)	267.1 (1)	24.6 (10)	15.9 (1)
9	Nov. 8	Philadelphia	8:30	10-6	396.8 (5)	375.6 (28)	29.6 (3)	25.0 (22)
10	Nov. 15	at Tampa Bay	1:00	2-14	292.0 (30)	368.9 (25)	17.3 (29)	25.6 (25)
11	Nov. 22	at Miami	1:00	8-8	350.1 (14)	343.4 (12)	24.3 (11)	23.3 (20)
12	Nov. 26	Carolina (Thu.)	4:30	7-8-1	346.7 (16)	339.8 (10)	21.2 (19)	23.4 (21)
13	Dec. 7	at Washington (Mon.)	8:30	4-12	358.6 (13)	357.0 (20)	18.8 (26)	27.4 (29)
14	Dec. 13	at Green Bay	4:25	12-4	386.1 (6)	346.4 (15)	30.4 (1)	21.8 (13)
15	Dec. 19	N.Y. Jets (Sat.)	8:25	4-12	326.6 (22)	327.2 (6)	17.7 (28)	25.1 (24)
16	Dec. 27	at Buffalo	1:00	9-7	318.5 (26)	312.2 (4)	21.4 (18)	18.1 (4)
17	Jan. 3	Washington	1:00	4-12	358.6 (13)	357.0 (20)	18.8 (26)	27.4 (29)

NEW YORK GIANTS

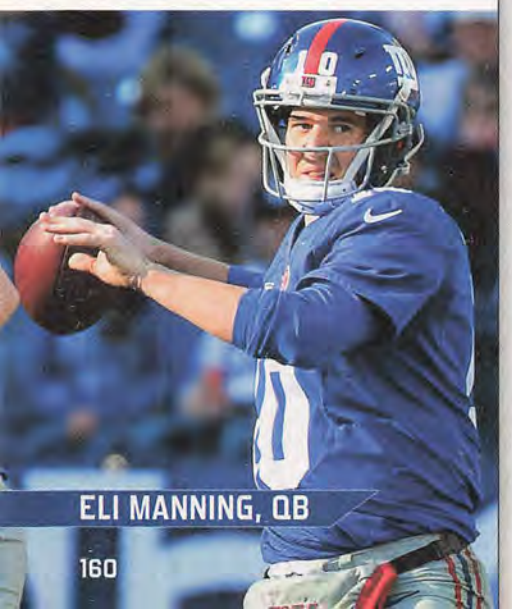
THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Tom Coughlin
RECORD WITH TEAM: 96–80
CAREER RECORD: 164–140
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Ben McAdoo
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Steve Spagnuolo
QUARTERBACKS: Mike Sullivan
RUNNING BACKS: Craig Johnson
WIDE RECEIVERS: Sean Ryan
TIGHT ENDS: Kevin M. Gilbride
OFFENSIVE LINE: Pat Flaherty
DEFENSIVE LINE: Robert Nunn
LINEBACKERS: Jim Herrmann
SECONDARY/CORNERBACKS: Tim Walton
SECONDARY/SAFETIES: David Merritt

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2010	10
2011	9
2012	9
2013	7
2014	6

Super Bowl Champion



ELI MANNING, QB

3 NFC EAST FORECAST

There's only so much that even the most patient bosses can take, and it appears that Giants ownership is finally reaching its limit. Last season was a disaster. They've now suffered back-to-back losing seasons for the first time under Tom Coughlin. In the three years since they won Super Bowl XLVI, they haven't made the playoffs once.

That is the failure that hovers over the Giants' 2015 season. And any thought that John Mara still has patience with Coughlin and GM Jerry Reese was erased with his last answer in his season-ending press conference. He was asked if 2015 would be a "win or else proposition" for many of his employees.

"I don't think that's an unfair statement," Mara said.

And so it begins. It's either the end of the Coughlin era, or the Giants' long-awaited return to prominence. And there seems to be very little room in between.

THE ORGANIZATION

PRESIDENT/CEO: John K. Mara
CHAIRMAN/EXECUTIVE VP: Steve Tisch
SENIOR VP/GENERAL MANAGER: Jerry Reese
SENIOR VP OF PLAYER PERSONNEL: Chris Mara
STADIUM: MetLife Stadium (82,566)
SURFACE: UBU Sports' Speed Series S5-M
WEBSITE: www.giants.com
TICKETS: 201-935-8111
TRAINING CAMP: Quest Diagnostics Training Center (East Rutherford, N.J.)

OFFENSE Considering all the questions hovering over Eli Manning heading into last season, his 2014 was remarkable. Last summer, he was answering questions about his injured ankle, the 27 interceptions he threw the year before, and his ability to learn a new offense for the first time in his career. In his 11th season, Manning threw for 4,410 yards and 30 touchdowns and had career high 63.1 completion percentage. His answer was one of his finest statistical seasons as he led the Giants' offense back into the top 10.

This year they're aiming higher — much higher — because they believe they have an offensive arsenal that compares to any team in the league. Start with the incomparable Odell Beckham Jr., the receiver who became an overnight superstar as a rookie. In 12 games he had what would've been a great season for most receivers in 16 games (91-1,305-12), and he did it despite being the Giants' only viable option at times.

This season, Beckham expects to be flanked by former Pro Bowl receiver Victor Cruz, whom the Giants hope will make a full recovery from the knee injury suffered last season. And the inconsistent but dangerous Rueben Randle will be better off as the No. 3. Randle had a career-high 938 receiving yards, but his yards per catch dipped from 14.9 to 13.2, and he scored only three touchdowns. Manning also will now have a running back to throw to out of the backfield — ex-Patriot Shane Vereen — which is supposed to be a very key component in offensive coordinator Ben McAdoo's plan. Vereen caught 52 passes last year for New England.

The key to all this, though, is the offensive line, which could give the running game a boost and give Manning more time to find his targets. They believe they'll be better because guard Geoff Schwartz, last year's big free agent, will be back after an injury-plagued season. They also drafted big Ereck Flowers, who should take over at right tackle, which would allow Justin Pugh to move inside to guard.

The Giants have the potential to have their best line — and best offense — since their Super Bowl team.

DEFENSE It's Back to the Future for the Giants after yet another disastrous defensive performance last season under now-ex-defensive coordinator Perry Fewell. There was no doubt whom Coughlin was going to tab as Fewell's replacement — the popular Steve Spagnuolo, who was the Giants' defensive coordinator in 2007 and 2008 and was the architect of the plan that beat the undefeated Patriots in Super Bowl XLII.

Of course, "Spags" had a loaded team back then that included Hall of Fame defensive end Michael Strahan and a stable of young, talented pass rushers. This time around his cupboard is much more bare. The Giants' entire pass rush hinges on defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul, who got the "franchise" tag this offseason. He had a brief resurgence at the end of last season, but it could've been the by-product of playing some bad teams.

Spagnuolo will bring an aggressive, attacking scheme that his players will love. He will find ways to utilize promising defensive end Damontre Moore, who is a pass-rush specialist but struggles against the run. He will bring corners and safeties on frequent blitzes, which will help a secondary that has some big question marks (corners Prince Amukamara and Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie are coming off injury-plagued seasons, and with Antrel Rolle gone the safety spot looks like a big, black hole).

The key to making that work, though, is the presence of one premier pass rusher to get most of the offense's attention, and to shrug off that attention and still make his presence felt. Pierre-Paul used to be able to do that. And the Giants' defense could be very good if he's the old "JPP" again.

Manning, Beckham: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports; Fan: AP

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

TORN BETWEEN TWO STORIES Odell Beckham Jr. added to his own legend when, after the Pro Bowl, he revealed that he had played his remarkable rookie season with two torn hamstrings — one that was fully torn. It was an incredible tale of toughness and perseverance, assuming it was true. "I don't know about that," GM Jerry Reese says. "I think he was trying to be a hero. You can't run fast like that with two torn hamstrings."

BENDING IT LIKE ... During and after his wild rookie season, Beckham has gotten praise and invitations from many A-list athletes, including LeBron James, who invited him to dinner. But his favorite meeting was with soccer star David Beckham, his childhood idol, and not just because they share a last name. Odell Beckham was once a pretty good soccer player, too. So what did Beckham tell Beckham? "He just told me, 'You have to keep the legacy going,'" Odell says. "'Keep up the family name.'"

ONLY TWO REMAINING Outside of the front office and the coaching staff, there are few ties left to the Giants' beloved Super Bowl XLII champions. With the retirement of offensive lineman Chris Snee last summer and the release of defensive end Mathias Kiwanuka, the last two are QB Eli Manning and long-snapper Zak DeOssie, both of whom could be around for a while.

ALL IN THE FAMILY Snee may have retired due to elbow and hip injuries, but he didn't stray far from the Giants. The former offensive lineman, and still-son-in-law to Tom Coughlin, spent the offseason evaluating film of some of the offensive linemen the Giants were considering in the draft. His favorite was Brandon Scherff, who went fifth to the Redskins. He did a lot of film work on Ereck Flowers, the Giants' first-round pick.

MONEY IN THE BANKS When the Giants drafted an offensive lineman in Round 1 they made it 31 straight drafts since they last took a linebacker in the first round. The last time it happened? When they took Carl Banks in 1984.

MOVIN' ON UP When running back Shane Vereen left the reigning Super Bowl champion Patriots to join the Giants, he heaped praise on his former employer. But his comment that received the most attention, understandably, was this one, explaining his decision to sign with the Giants: "This is not a step down," he said. "If anything, it's a step up."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
LB	Jonathan Casillas	New England
DT	Kenrick Ellis	N.Y. Jets
WR/KR	Dwayne Harris	Dallas
OL	Marshall Newhouse	Cincinnati
DE	George Selvie	Dallas
LB	J.T. Thomas	Jacksonville
RB	Shane Vereen	New England

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
S	Stevie Brown	Houston
DE	Mathias Kiwanuka	Free Agent
DT	Mike Patterson	Free Agent
S	Antrel Rolle	Chicago
C	J.D. Walton	Miami

ODELL BECKHAM JR., WR

2014 RESULTS (6-10)

Sept. 8	at Detroit	L	14-35
Sept. 14	Arizona	L	14-25
Sept. 21	Houston	W	30-17
Sept. 25	at Washington	W	45-14
Oct. 5	Atlanta	W	30-20
Oct. 12	at Philadelphia	L	0-27
Oct. 19	at Dallas	L	21-31
Nov. 3	Indianapolis	L	24-40
Nov. 9	at Seattle	L	17-38
Nov. 16	San Francisco	L	10-16
Nov. 23	Dallas	L	28-31
Nov. 30	at Jacksonville	L	24-25
Dec. 7	at Tennessee	W	36-7
Dec. 14	Washington	W	24-13
Dec. 21	at St. Louis	W	37-27
Dec. 28	Philadelphia	L	26-34

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

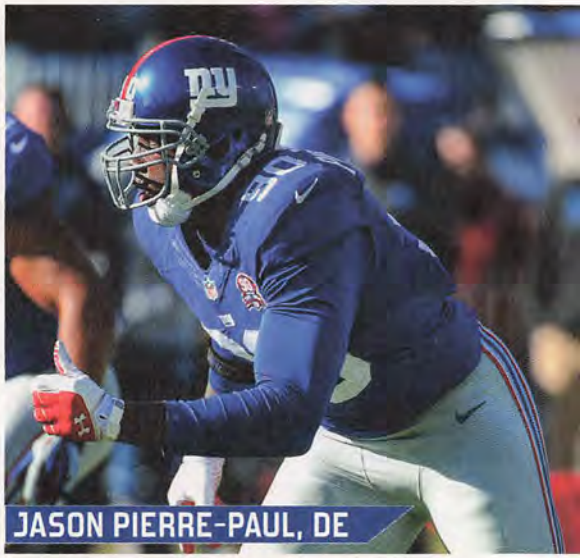
PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Eli Manning	601	379	4,410	30	14
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Andre Williams	217	721	3.3	7	
Rashad Jennings	167	639	3.8	4	
Peyton Hillis	26	115	4.4	0	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Odell Beckham	91	1,305	14.3	12	
Rueben Randle	71	938	13.2	3	
Larry Donnell	63	623	9.9	6	
Preston Parker	36	418	11.6	2	
Rashad Jennings	30	226	7.5	0	
Victor Cruz	23	337	14.7	1	

KICKING: Josh Brown, 24-26 FGs, 44-44 PATs, 116 points
TACKLES: Jameel McClain, 116; Antrel Rolle, 87
SACKS: Jason Pierre-Paul, 12.5; Johnathan Hankins, 7.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Quintin Demps, 4; Two players tied with 3

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	367.2	10	7
Rushing	100.2	23	11
Passing	267.0	7	4
Scoring	23.8	13	7
Third Down %	43.0	10	6
Punt Returns	7.7	19	11
Kick Returns	23.3	T17	9
TEAM DEFENSE	**Stat**	**NFL Rank**	**NFC Rank**
Total	375.8	29	13
Rushing	135.1	30	16
Passing	240.6	18	7
Scoring	25.0	T22	T10
Interceptions	17	11	6
Sacks	47	4	2
Turnover Differential	-3	20	11

SPECIALISTS The Giants haven't had to worry about their kicker (Josh Brown) or punter (Steve Weatherford) the last few years. Brown is as accurate as any kicker in the league, and Weatherford — who battled through painful torn ligaments in his ankle last season — is a coach's dream, at least when he's healthy. The coverage teams on kicks and punts were even improved last season.


JASON PIERRE-PAUL, DE

It's the Giants' return game that's been dreadful, which is why they over-spent on Dwayne Harris, a virtually unknown Cowboys receiver/returner. The hope is that he'll bring the speed and explosiveness they've been missing in their return game since they had a healthy Domenik Hixon. It also allows them to keep Beckham off of special teams, because until Harris arrived, Beckham was looking like their only option.

Harris — who also could be a terrific gunner on punt coverage teams — will still need solid play in front of him, and the Giants think they've found a small army of good special teamers both in free agency and in recent draft classes. It didn't go unnoticed that some of their free-agent additions, such as linebackers Jonathan Casillas and JT Thomas, are good special teamers too. The Giants' beleaguered unit needs as much help as it can get.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Giants would never use injuries as an excuse, but how can you not factor that in when thinking about how much better they'll be this year? They had injuries along their offensive and defensive lines, lost their previous No. 1 receiver (Cruz), their middle linebacker (Jon Beason), their top corner (Amukamara), their nickel corner (Walt Thurmond) and, for a time, their No. 1 running back (Rashad Jennings). No wonder the Giants finished 6–10.

But here's the thing: They still had a top-10 offense, and there were at least four winnable games where a little luck and health might have made a difference.

That's why they're primed for a bounce-back year. They are essentially getting their 2014 free-agent class back, along with their '15 class. They are adding help to free the unstoppable Beckham from double-teams. They've added a better defensive coordinator who'll bring in a more successful scheme. Barring another onslaught of injuries, this team should be much improved and remain in the hunt in the NFC East.

GIANTS IN THE DRAFT

A

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Ereck Flowers	OL	6-6	329	Miami (Fla.)
2.	Landon Collins	S	6-0	228	Alabama
3.	Owamagbe Odighizuwa	DE	6-3	267	UCLA
5.	Mykkele Thompson	S	6-2	191	Texas
6.	Geremy Davis	WR	6-2	216	Connecticut
7.	Bobby Hart	OL	6-5	329	Florida State

The Giants' first three picks will absolutely get an opportunity to step in right away, which is what makes this class so good. Ereck Flowers projects as a franchise left tackle, but he probably will start on the right side. Landon Collins, the first pick in the second round, will have to be a starting safety almost by default, and Mykkele Thompson, a safety out of Texas, could earn a job too. Thompson didn't expect to be drafted, saying he didn't put up good enough numbers, but he hopes to reward the Giants' faith in him. And while Owamagbe Odighizuwa won't start, he'll be in the defensive end rotation. They all need some work. Flowers has issues with his pass-blocking technique, Collins isn't strong in coverage, and Odighizuwa needs to be stronger against the run. But since they all fill holes on the Giants' roster, they'll be thrown in right away to sink or swim. Geremy Davis, who had a productive career at UConn, could be a special teams contributor. Bobby Hart earned All-ACC honors twice at Florida State and has impressive skills.

Pierre-Paul: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports; Flowers: AP

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
10	Manning, Eli	QB	6-4	218	11	Ole Miss	T-SD-04	D1-SD-04
12	Nassib, Ryan	QB	6-2	223	2	Syracuse	D4-13	D4-NYG-13
2	Stanzi, Ricky	QB	6-4	228	1	Iowa	FA-15	D5-KC-11
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
43	Darkwa, Orleans	RB	6-0	215	1	Tulane	FA-14	FA-Mia-14
45	Hynoski, Henry	FB	6-1	266	4	Pittsburgh	FA-11	FA-NYG-11
23	Jennings, Rashad	RB	6-1	231	6	Liberty	FA-Oak-14	D7a-Jac-09
47	Ogbonnaya, Chris	RB	6-0	225	5	Texas	FA-14	D7-StL-09
34	Vereen, Shane	RB	5-10	205	4	California	FA-NE-15	D2b-NE-11
49	Whitlock, Nikita	FB	5-10	250	1	Wake Forest	FA-14	FA-Cin-14
44	Williams, Andre	RB	5-11	230	1	Boston College	D4-14	D4-NYG-14
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
13	Beckham Jr., Odell	WR	5-11	198	1	LSU	D1-14	D1-NYG-14
17	Criner, Juron	WR	6-3	220	3	Arizona	FA-14	D5-Oak-12
80	Cruz, Victor	WR	6-0	204	5	Massachusetts	FA-10	FA-NYG-10
49	Cunningham, Jerome	TE	6-3	214	1	So. Conn. St.	FA-14	FA-NYG-14
84	Donnell, Larry	TE	6-6	265	2	Grambling State	FA-13	FA-NYG-12
85	Fells, Daniel	TE	6-4	260	7	California-Davis	FA-14	FA-Atl-06
86	Harper, Chris	WR	6-1	228	2	Kansas State	FA-14	D4-Sea-13
13	Harris, Marcus	WR	6-1	187	1	Murray State	FA-13	FA-Det-11
17	Harris, Dwayne	WR	5-10	202	4	East Carolina	FA-Dal-15	D6-Dal-11
83	Parker, Preston	WR	6-0	200	3	North Alabama	FA-14	FA-TB-10
82	Randle, Rueben	WR	6-2	208	3	LSU	D2-12	D2-NYG-12
81	Robinson, Adrien	TE	6-4	264	3	Cincinnati	D4-12	D4-NYG-12
19	Talley, Julian	WR	6-1	192	1	Massachusetts	FA-14	FA-NYG-12
88	Washington, Corey	WR	6-4	214	1	Newberry	W-Ari-14	FA-Ari-14
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
64	Bamiro, Michael	T	6-8	340	1	Stony Brook	FA-14	FA-Phi-13
65	Beatty, Will	T	6-6	319	6	Connecticut	D2-09	D2-NYG-09
63	Cleary, Emmett	T	6-7	324	1	Boston College	FA-15	FA-Ind-13
60	Gettis, Adam	OL	6-2	305	3	Iowa	FA-14	D5-Was-12
62	Herman, Eric	G	6-4	320	1	Ohio	FA-14	D7a-NYG-13
77	Jerry, John	G	6-5	340	5	Ole Miss	FA-Mia-14	D3-Mia-10
69	Jones, Brett	G/T	6-2	318	0	Regina	FA-15	FA-NYG-15
70	Kropog, Troy	T	6-6	295	4	Tulane	FA-14	D4-Ten-09
75	Mosley, Brandon	G/T	6-5	318	3	Auburn	D4-12	D4-NYG-12
73	Newhouse, Marshall	T	6-4	328	5	TCU	FA-Cin-15	D5b-GB-10
67	Pugh, Justin	T/G	6-4	301	2	Syracuse	D1-13	D1-NYG-13
61	Reynolds, Dallas	C/G	6-4	320	3	BYU	FA-13	FA-Phi-09
70	Richburg, Weston	G/C	6-3	298	1	Colorado State	D2-14	D2-NYG-14
74	Schwartz, Geoff	G	6-6	340	6	Oregon	FA-KC-14	D7b-Car-07
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
91	Ayers Jr., Robert	DE	6-3	275	6	Tennessee	FA-Den-14	D1b-Den-09
96	Bromley, Jay	DT	6-3	310	1	Syracuse	D3-14	D3-NYG-14
97	Ellis, Kenrick	DT	6-4	346	4	Hampton	FA-NYJ-15	D3-NYJ-11
79	Hamilton, Dominique	DT	6-5	315	1	Missouri	FA-14	FA-Oak-12
95	Hankins, Johnathan	DT	6-2	320	2	Ohio State	D2-13	D2-NYG-13
99	Jenkins, Cullen	DT	6-2	305	11	Central Michigan	FA-Phi-13	FA-GB-03
78	Kuhn, Markus	DT	6-4	303	3	NC State	D7-12	D7-NYG-12
98	Moore, Damontré	DE	6-5	250	2	Texas A&M	D3-13	D3-NYG-13
90	Pierre-Paul, Jason	DE	6-5	278	5	South Florida	D1-10	D1-NYG-10
93	Selvie, George	DE	6-4	270	5	South Florida	FA-Dal-15	D7-StL-10
66	Stanton, Jordan	DE	6-4	263	1	James Madison	FA-14	FA-NYG-14
72	Wynn, Kerry	DE	6-5	264	1	Richmond	FA-14	FA-NYG-14
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
52	Beason, Jon	LB	6-0	232	8	Miami	T-Car-13	D1-Car-07
57	Butler, Victor	LB	6-2	245	5	Oregon State	FA-15	D4-Dal-09
54	Casillas, Jonathan	LB	6-1	227	6	Wisconsin	FA-NE-15	FA-NO-09
46	Davidson, James	LB	6-3	242	1	UTEP	FA-14	FA-Cin-14
94	Herzlich, Mark	LB	6-4	246	4	Boston College	FA-11	FA-NYG-11
41	Jones, Ryan	LB	6-4	245	1	Montana Tech	FA-15	FA-Bal-14
59	Kennard, Devon	LB	6-3	251	1	USC	D5b-14	D5b-NYG-14
53	McClain, Jameel	LB	6-1	245	7	Syracuse	FA-Bal-14	FA-Bal-08
55	Thomas III, J.T.	LB	6-1	236	4	West Virginia	FA-Jac-15	D6-Chi-11
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
20	Amukamara, Prince	CB	6-0	207	4	Nebraska	D1-11	D1-NYG-11
34	Berhe, Nat	S	6-0	194	1	San Diego State	D5a-14	D5a-NYG-14
39	Brown, Chykie	S	5-11	190	4	Texas	W-Bal-14	D5-Bal-11
48	Fenner, Chandler	CB	6-1	189	2	Holy Cross	FA-14	FA-KC-12
	Gordy, Josh	CB	5-11	195	4	Central Michigan	FA-Ind-15	FA-Jac-10
37	Harris, Mike	CB	5-10	188	3	Florida State	FA-14	D6-Jac-12
28	Hosley, Jayron	CB	5-10	178	3	Virginia Tech	D3-12	D3-NYG-12
36	Jackson, Bennett	CB	6-0	192	1	Notre Dame	D6-14	D6-NYG-14
38	McBride, Trumaine	CB	5-9	185	7	Ole Miss	FA-13	D7-Chi-07
21	Rodgers-Cromartie, D.	CB	6-2	193	7	Tennessee State	FA-Den-14	D1-Ari-08
30	Taylor, Cooper	S	6-4	228	2	Richmond	D5-13	D5-NYG-13
31	Trevin Wade	CB	5-10	190	2	Arizona	FA-15	D7-Cle-12
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
6	Boswell, Chris	K	6-2	185	1	Rice	FA-15	FA-Hou-14
3	Brown, Josh	K	6-0	202	12	Nebraska	FA-13	D7-Sea-07
51	DeOssie, Zak	LS	6-4	249	8	Brown	D4-07	D4-NYG-07
5	Weatherford, Steve	P	6-2	210	9	Illinois	FA-11	FA-NO-06

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	13	Odell Beckham Jr.
	17	Dwayne Harris
WR	80	Victor Cruz
	82	Rueben Randle
LT	65	Will Beatty
	73	Marshall Newhouse
LG	74	Geoff Schwartz
	61	Dallas Reynolds
C	70	Weston Richburg
	69	Brett Jones
RG	67	Justin Pugh
	62	Eric Herman
RT	76	Ereck Flowers (R)
	75	Brandon Mosley
TE	84	Larry Donnell
	85	Daniel Fells
QB	10	Eli Manning
	12	Ryan Nassib
FB	45	Henry Hynoski
	49	Nikita Whitlock
RB	23	Rashad Jennings
	44	Andre Williams

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	91	Robert Ayers
	98	Damontre Moore
DT	95	Johnathan Hankins
	96	Jay Bromley
DT	99	Cullen Jenkins
	97	Kenrick Ellis
DE	90	Jason Pierre-Paul
	93	George Selvie
SLB	59	Devon Kennard
	55	J.T. Thomas
MLB	52	Jon Beason
	94	Mark Herzlich
WLB	53	Jameel McClain
	54	Jonathan Casillas
CB	20	Prince Amukamara
	28	Jayron Hosley
CB	21	D. Rodgers-Cromartie
	38	Trumaine McBride
SS	34	Nat Berhe
	39	Chykie Brown
FS	26	Landon Collins (R)
	30	Cooper Taylor

SPECIALISTS

K	3	Josh Brown
P	5	Steve Weatherford
KR	17	Dwayne Harris
PR	17	Dwayne Harris

SCOUTING THE GIANTS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP NEW YORK "After some growing pains for the entire offense, Eli Manning took off and finished with 30 touchdowns and cut his interceptions in half from 27 to 14. ... In only 12 games, Odell Beckham Jr. earned a Pro Bowl trip. He is a terrific hand-eye coordination athlete with change-of-direction skills and big speed. ... Rueben Randle doesn't get much recognition, but he chipped in 71 catches and has developed into a solid No. 3 WR. ... The biggest surprise may have been the performance of tight end Larry Donnell, who ended 2014 with 63 grabs and six touchdowns. ... The offensive line was upgraded when tackle Ereck Flowers was picked at No. 9 in the first round, so with center Weston Richburg and tackle Justin Pugh, they now have three young prospects that can be secure long-time starters. ... (New defensive coordinator) Steve Spagnuolo will find some pieces to work with in end Jason Pierre-Paul, who returned to form with 12.5 sacks, and tackle Johnathan Hankins, plus outside linebacker Devon Kennard. ... After Antrel Rolle signed in Chicago, the safety position was the most vacant spot on the depth chart until the team traded up to get Landon Collins in the second round. ... No one in the NFC East is invincible, so if the Giants can stay healthy and improve their turnover margin again, they can be in the mix with Dallas and Philadelphia."

2015 SCHEDULE

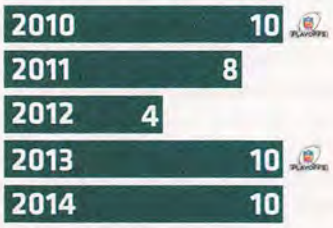
					2014 NFL RANKINGS			
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	at Dallas	8:30	12-4	383.6 (7)	355.1 (19)	29.2 (5)	22.0 (15)
2	Sept. 20	Atlanta	1:00	6-10	378.2 (8)	398.3 (32)	23.8 (12)	26.1 (27)
3	Sept. 24	Washington (Thu.)	8:25	4-12	358.6 (13)	357.0 (20)	18.8 (26)	27.4 (29)
4	Oct. 4	at Buffalo	1:00	9-7	318.5 (26)	312.2 (4)	21.4 (18)	18.1 (4)
5	Oct. 11	San Francisco	8:30	8-8	327.4 (20)	321.4 (5)	19.1 (25)	21.3 (10)
6	Oct. 19	at Philadelphia (Mon.)	8:30	10-6	396.8 (5)	375.6 (28)	29.6 (3)	25.0 (22)
7	Oct. 25	Dallas	4:25	12-4	383.6 (7)	355.1 (19)	29.2 (5)	22.0 (15)
8	Nov. 1	at New Orleans	1:00	7-9	411.4 (1)	384.0 (31)	25.1 (9)	26.5 (28)
9	Nov. 8	at Tampa Bay	4:05	2-14	292.0 (30)	368.9 (25)	17.3 (29)	25.6 (25)
10	Nov. 15	New England	4:25	12-4	365.5 (11)	344.1 (13)	29.3 (4)	19.6 (8)
11		BYE						
12	Nov. 29	at Washington	1:00	4-12	358.6 (13)	357.0 (20)	18.8 (26)	27.4 (29)
13	Dec. 6	N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	326.6 (22)	327.2 (6)	17.7 (28)	25.1 (24)
14	Dec. 14	at Miami (Mon.)	8:30	8-8	350.1 (14)	343.4 (12)	24.3 (11)	23.3 (20)
15	Dec. 20	Carolina	1:00	7-8-1	346.7 (16)	339.8 (10)	21.2 (19)	23.4 (21)
16	Dec. 27	at Minnesota	1:00	7-9	315.5 (27)	344.7 (14)	20.3 (21)	21.4 (11)
17	Jan. 3	Philadelphia	1:00	10-6	396.8 (5)	375.6 (28)	29.6 (3)	25.0 (22)

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Chip Kelly
RECORD WITH TEAM: 20–12
CAREER RECORD: 20–12
ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/DEFENSIVE LINE: Jerry Azzinaro
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Pat Shurmur
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Bill Davis
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Dave Fipp
QUARTERBACKS: Ryan Day
RUNNING BACKS: Duce Staley
WIDE RECEIVERS: Bob Bicknell
TIGHT ENDS: Justin Peelle
OFFENSIVE LINE: Jeff Stoutland
OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS: Bill McGovern
INSIDE LINEBACKERS: Rick Minter
DEFENSIVE BACKS: Cory Undlin

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



Playoffs

JORDAN MATTHEWS, WR

2 NFC EAST FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN/CEO: Jeffrey Lurie
PRESIDENT: Don Smolenski
EXECUTIVE VP OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS: Howie Roseman
VP OF PLAYER PERSONNEL: Ed Marynowitz
DIRECTOR OF PRO PERSONNEL: Rick Mueller
STADIUM: Lincoln Financial Field (69,176)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.philadelphiaeagles.com
TICKETS: 215-463-5500
TRAINING CAMP: NovaCare Training Complex (Philadelphia, Pa.)

Chip Kelly's short tenure as Philadelphia's coach has been anything but dull. It's too early to tell if the many changes Kelly has made will pay off in postseason success, but there can be no denying the interest the team has created. In a town starving for good news in the light of the horrible play of the Phillies, Sixers and Flyers, the Eagles' offseason personnel binge was a welcome diversion from the carnage afflicting the city's other professional teams.

Now in his third year with the Birds, Kelly is completely in charge of the team on and off the field. The team is all his, and if some have been turned off by the decisions he's made, Kelly frankly doesn't care. He has a plan, and as one of the rare NFL coaches who also handles the personnel end of the business, he is in a unique position to carry it out. After two straight seasons of 10 wins — but no playoff success — the Philadelphia community is expecting more in 2015. It's up to Kelly to prove that he knows what he's doing.

OFFENSE The star of the Eagles' offense is the scheme, which features a high-speed, run-first spread attack designed to leave opponents panting and confused. It worked well last year, since Philadelphia was fifth in the league in total offense, third in points per game and ninth in rushing. But thanks to a few significant offseason moves, there is no guarantee the Eagles will be able to replicate that success. Further, the success that top defenses — Seattle, San Francisco, Indianapolis included — had against Philadelphia last year may have created a blueprint for 2015 opponents.

The biggest change is at running back, where LeSean McCoy is off to Buffalo after rushing for 2,926 yards the past two seasons. By the end of last year, there were whispers that Kelly wasn't happy with his featured back, who at times waited for a hole to emerge, rather than sticking his foot in the ground and powering straight ahead. That's why the Eagles signed DeMarco Murray, who rushed for 1,845 yards and 13 scores — both tops in the league — last year for Dallas. Murray is more of a plant-and-cut guy, and Kelly likes that. He won't get 392 carries, though, like he did last year, thanks to the arrival of Ryan Mathews from San Diego and the return of versatile Darren Sproles, although Mathews missed a big part of 2014 with a foot injury.

If Murray plays like he did last year, it will make life easy for new quarterback Sam Bradford, whom the team acquired in a trade with St. Louis. Although there were rumors the Birds were going to trade the team for Marcus Mariota, no deal happened, and Bradford is under center, so long as he doesn't get injured again. Now on his third ACL, Bradford has played a total of seven games the past two seasons. If healthy, he can be accurate and productive, although he has limited potential to run from the zone read. Inconsistent Mark Sanchez will back him up.

For the second straight year, the Eagles lost a top-shelf receiver. After 2013, DeSean Jackson departed. Now, they will do without Jeremy Maclin (85 catches, 10 TDs), who signed with Kansas City. His loss hurts a receiving corps that now needs big contributions from second-year man Jordan Matthews, who has potential but isn't a No. 1-type, disappointing Riley Cooper, veteran pick-up Miles Austin and rookie Nelson Agholor of USC. Agholor, the team's first-round draft pick, is a Maclin clone who has good quickness and ball skills but won't force opponents to double-team him. Tight end Brent Celek is a warrior, but he saw his production drop last year, so it's time for third-year man Zach Ertz to develop into a major contributor.

The Eagles didn't address the offensive line in the draft, but that's not the worst thing in the world. Left tackle Jason Peters is still one of the best around, and center Jason Kelce is an All-Pro candidate. Right tackle Lane Johnson is solid but not yet a standout, and though guard Evan Mathis wanted to be traded during the offseason, he is back for his fifth season with the team.

DEFENSE Kelly's offensive philosophy puts tremendous stress on the defense, and last year that was not a good thing. The Eagles finished 28th in the league in total D, tied for 22nd in points allowed and 31st against the pass. There have been some big changes made on the back end, but there remains no guarantee the unit can hold up against better opposition.

The trade for McCoy netted inside linebacker Kiko Alonso, who had 87 solo tackles and four interceptions in 2013 but missed all of last year with a torn ACL. If healthy, he is a

Matthews, Barwin: Tom DiPace; Cheerleader: AP

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

MAXIMUM LEADER Although Chip Kelly and owner Jeffrey Lurie insist that the coach did not demand the demotion of former GM Howie Roseman to team capologist, the coach is now completely in charge of the Eagles' personnel and flexed his authority during the offseason with a variety of moves that continue to change the team's identity. While Roseman received a raise, he lost his influence on matters involving the roster and is now playing a supporting role while Kelly puts together a team that fits his preferences.

HOSPITAL WARD If there's one overriding theme among the new faces, it's the hope that most of them are fast healers. Quarterback Sam Bradford (ACL), linebacker Kiko Alonso (ACL), running back Ryan Mathews (foot) and cornerback Walter Thurmond (pectoral) all come to town in the midst of rehabbing major injuries.

NO DEAL The three-plus months leading up to the 2015 NFL Draft were basically a pep rally for the Eagles to draft Marcus Mariota, the Oregon quarterback who thrived under Kelly's system. Although draft-day rumors had the Eagles trading multiple picks and players to Tennessee for the second overall pick, nothing materialized, and Philadelphia was left with Sam Bradford as its starting quarterback.

UNHAPPY CAMPERS When the Eagles convened for voluntary workouts in April, two 2014 starters weren't there and were being shopped by the team. Linebacker Mychal Kendricks and guard Evan Mathis were both unhappy with their contract situations — each is heading into the last year of a deal — and requested to be shipped to a team that would give them an extension. The draft came and went, and both remained on the roster, a condition most expect to continue throughout the season.

MURRAY CHRISTMAS The Eagles got a late holiday present when DeMarco Murray signed a free-agent deal with the team. Philadelphia thought it had Frank Gore as its replacement for LeSean McCoy, but he went to Indianapolis instead, clearing a path for Murray. The NFL's reigning rushing leader had a huge 2014 season and was a big reason the Cowboys won the NFC East and a playoff game. He will get plenty of work in the Eagles' system and try to replicate his previous success.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
LB	Kiko Alonso	Buffalo
WR	Miles Austin	Cleveland
QB	Sam Bradford	St. Louis
RB	Ryan Mathews	San Diego
CB	Byron Maxwell	Seattle
RB	DeMarco Murray	Dallas
CB	Walter Thurmond	N.Y. Giants

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
S	Nate Allen	Oakland
DE	Trent Cole	Indianapolis
CB	Bradley Fletcher	New England
QB	Nick Foles	St. Louis
G	Todd Herremans	Indianapolis
WR	Jeremy Maclin	Kansas City
RB	LeSean McCoy	Buffalo
CB	Cary Williams	Seattle

CONNOR BARWIN, LB

2014 RESULTS (10-6)

Sept. 7	Jacksonville	W	34-17
Sept. 15	at Indianapolis	W	30-27
Sept. 21	Washington	W	37-34
Sept. 28	at San Francisco	L	21-26
Oct. 5	St. Louis	W	34-28
Oct. 12	N.Y. Giants	W	27-0
Oct. 26	at Arizona	L	20-24
Nov. 2	at Houston	W	31-21
Nov. 10	Carolina	W	45-21
Nov. 16	at Green Bay	L	20-53
Nov. 23	Tennessee	W	43-24
Nov. 27	at Dallas	W	33-10
Dec. 7	Seattle	L	14-24
Dec. 14	Dallas	L	27-38
Dec. 20	at Washington	L	24-27
Dec. 28	at N.Y. Giants	W	34-26

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Mark Sanchez	309	198	2,418	14	11
Nick Foles	311	186	2,163	13	10
RUSHING	**ATT**		**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
LeSean McCoy	312		1,319	4.2	5
Darren Sproles	57		329	5.8	6
Chris Polk	46		172	3.7	4
RECEIVING	**REC**		**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Jeremy Maclin	85		1,318	15.5	10
Jordan Matthews	67		872	13.0	8
Zach Ertz	58		702	12.1	3
Riley Cooper	55		577	10.5	3
Darren Sproles	40		387	9.7	0

KICKING: Cody Parkey, 32-36 FGs, 54-54 PATs, 150 points
TACKLES: Mychal Kendricks, 83; Malcolm Jenkins, 80
SACKS: Connor Barwin, 14.5; Vinny Curry, 9.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Nate Allen, 4; Malcolm Jenkins, 3

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	396.8	5	2
Rushing	124.5	9	5
Passing	272.2	6	3
Scoring	29.6	3	2
Third Down %	43.5	9	5
Punt Returns	13.0	T2	T2
Kick Returns	27.3	5	1
TEAM DEFENSE	**Stat**	**NFL Rank**	**NFC Rank**
Total	375.6	28	12
Rushing	110.7	15	8
Passing	264.9	31	15
Scoring	25.0	T22	T10
Interceptions	12	T21	T14
Sacks	49	T2	1
Turnover Differential	-8	T26	T13

downhill playmaker. If not, the Eagles are in trouble. The team re-upped inside man DeMeco Ryans, who tore his Achilles tendon in the eighth game of 2014 and could struggle getting back to top form. Mychal Kendricks spent the offseason upset about his contract and Alonso's arrival, but if he plays hard, he can be a difference maker.

Sack man Connor Barwin and Brandon Graham are the main outside threats in Bill Davis' 3-4, and it is up to Graham — who showed flashes last year — to play consistently. The Birds hope third-round pick Jordan Hicks can provide good depth inside, while second-year man Marcus Smith, the Eagles' first-round pick last year, is still waiting to make his first NFL tackle.

FLETCHER COX, DE

The Eagles' secondary was horrible last year, and fans welcomed the departures of Bradley Fletcher and Cary Williams. Philadelphia will use former Seattle corner Byron Maxwell on one side and hope he wasn't aided by the presence of Richard Sherman opposite him in the Emerald City. New addition Walter Thurmond could play on the other side, but he is more of a slot corner, as is holdover Brandon Boykin. By midseason, second-round pick Eric Rowe could have the job. Malcolm Jenkins is tough at free safety, but there is a hole next to him.

Up front, left end Fletcher Cox should be a Pro Bowler, while big Bennie Logan is a drain plug in the middle, and Cedric Thornton is a solid end.

SPECIALISTS The Eagles lucked into something good when they acquired Cody Parkey, who made 32-of-36 kicks last year, including 4-of-4 from 50 and beyond. Punter Donnie Jones averaged 43.8 yards per kick last year, a number that needs to improve. Agholor adds excitement to the return game, and Sproles is a threat to go the distance at all times.

FINAL ANALYSIS This is a tough team to read because there are so many variables due to injury. If Bradford is healthy, the offense should be potent, thanks to Murray, but there are big concerns at wide receiver. The secondary is better (how could it be worse?), but the Eagles still need Alonso and Ryans to make healthy returns in order to make the second line of defense potent.

The Eagles will continue to try to outscore people, and while that works against some teams, it isn't good enough against the NFC's best.

EAGLES IN THE DRAFT

B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Nelson Agholor	WR	6-0	198	USC
2.	Eric Rowe	DB	6-1	205	Utah
3.	Jordan Hicks	OLB	6-1	236	Texas
6.	JaCorey Shepherd	CB	5-11	199	Kansas
6.	Randall Evans	DB	6-0	195	Kansas State
7.	Brian Mihalik	DE	6-9	295	Boston College

The Eagles addressed needs at receiver and in the defensive backfield with this draft, getting a wideout (Nelson Agholor) many believe could step right in and start. The former USC Trojan caught 104 passes as a junior in 2014, although he averaged a career-low 12.6 yards per reception. Still, the Eagles believe he could be a downfield threat to relieve the crowding at the line of scrimmage in the run game. Eric Rowe is capable of playing safety or corner, two areas of need for the team. He could start at some point this season. Jordan Hicks is a three-down inside man who may have trouble getting work anywhere but on special teams his first year. JaCorey Shepherd, who slipped in the draft due to a slow 40 time at his Pro Day, is seen by many as a sleeper and has a chance to get into the cornerback rotation. Randall Evans has good versatility and could find special teams work in 2015. At 6'9", Brian Mihalik is the tallest player Chip Kelly has ever drafted, and Kelly was impressed with his other measurables as well.

Cox: Tom DiPace; Agholor: Peter Brouillet

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
2 Barkley, Matt	QB	6-2	227	2	USC	D4-13	D4-Phi-13
7 Bradford, Sam	QB	6-4	224	5	Oklahoma	T-StL-15	D1-StL-10
3 Sanchez, Mark	QB	6-2	225	6	USC	FA-NYJ-14	D1-NYJ-09
11 Tebow, Tim	QB	6-3	245	3	Florida	FA-15	D1-Den-10
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
34 Barner, Kenjon	RB	5-9	195	1	Oregon	T-Car-14	D6-Car-13
24 Mathews, Ryan	RB	6-0	220	5	Fresno State	FA-SD-15	D1-SD-10
29 Murray, DeMarco	RB	6-0	217	4	Oklahoma	FA-Dal-15	D3-Dal-11
43 Sproles, Darren	RB	5-6	190	10	Kansas State	T-NO-14	D4-SD-05
39 Tucker, Matthew	RB	6-1	227	1	TCU	FA-13	FA-Phi-13
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
16 Ajirotutu, Seyi	WR	6-3	215	5	Fresno State	FA-SD-15	FA-SD-10
19 Austin, Miles	WR	6-2	215	9	Monmouth	FA-Cle-15	FA-Dal-06
47 Burton, Trey	TE	6-3	235	1	Florida	FA-14	FA-Phi-14
87 Celek, Brent	TE	6-4	255	8	Cincinnati	D5b-07	D5b-Phi-07
14 Cooper, Riley	WR	6-4	230	5	Florida	D5b-10	D5b-Phi-10
86 Ertz, Zach	TE	6-5	250	2	Stanford	D2-13	D2-Phi-13
13 Huff, Josh	WR	5-11	206	1	Oregon	D3-14	D3-Phi-14
4 Kinne, G.J.	QB	6-2	218	1	Tulsa	FA-13	FA-NYJ-12
88 Maehl, Jeff	WR	6-0	184	2	Oregon	T-Hou-13	FA-Hou-11
81 Matthews, Jordan	WR	6-3	212	1	Vanderbilt	D2-14	D2-Phi-14
84 Murphy, Will	WR	6-2	193	1	Oregon	FA-14	FA-Phi-13
10 Pratt, Quron	WR	5-11	195	1	Rutgers	FA-14	FA-Phi-14
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
68 Andrews, Josh	G	6-2	311	1	Oregon State	FA-14	FA-Phi-14
76 Barbre, Allen	G/T	6-4	310	7	Missouri So.	FA-13	D4-GB-07
66 Gardner, Andrew	T/G	6-6	308	5	Georgia Tech	FA-Hou-14	D6-Mia-09
77 Graf, Kevin	T	6-6	309	1	USC	FA-14	FA-Phi-14
65 Johnson, Lane	T	6-6	317	2	Oklahoma	D1-13	D1-Phi-13
62 Kelce, Jason	C	6-3	295	4	Cincinnati	D6a-11	D6a-Phi-11
67 Kelly, Dennis	G/T	6-8	321	3	Purdue	D5-12	D5-Phi-12
69 Mathis, Evan	G	6-5	298	10	Alabama	FA-Cin-11	D3-Car-05
63 Molk, David	C	6-1	290	2	Michigan	FA-14	D7-SD-12
71 Peters, Jason	T	6-4	328	11	Arkansas	T-Buf-09	FA-Buf-04
64 Tobin, Matt	G/T	6-6	290	2	Iowa	FA-13	FA-Phi-13
61 Vandervelde, Julian	C/G	6-2	300	3	Iowa	D5b-11	D5b-Phi-11
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
94 Allen, Beau	DT	6-2	333	1	Wisconsin	D7-14	D7-Phi-14
93 Bair, Brandon	DE	6-6	290	2	Oregon	FA-13	FA-KC-11
91 Cox, Fletcher	DE	6-4	300	3	Mississippi State	D1-12	D1-Phi-12
75 Curry, Vinny	DE	6-3	279	3	Marshall	D2b-12	D2b-Phi-12
97 Hart, Taylor	DE	6-6	281	1	Oregon	D5a-14	D5a-Phi-14
74 Kelilkipi, Wade	DT	6-2	303	1	Oregon	FA-14	FA-Phi-14
96 Logan, Bennie	DT	6-2	315	2	LSU	D3-13	D3-Phi-13
72 Thornton, Cedric	DE	6-4	309	3	So. Arkansas	FA-11	FA-Phi-11
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
51 Acho, Emmanuel	LB	6-2	240	3	Texas	T-Cle-13	D6a-Cle-12
50 Alonso, Kiko	LB	6-3	238	2	Oregon	T-Buf-15	D2b-Buf-13
98 Barwin, Connor	LB	6-4	264	6	Cincinnati	FA-Hou-13	D2-Hou-09
56 Braman, Bryan	LB	6-5	241	4	West Texas A&M	FA-Hou-14	FA-Hou-11
53 Goode, Najee	LB	6-0	244	3	West Virginia	W-TB-13	D5-TB-12
55 Graham, Brandon	LB	6-2	265	5	Michigan	D1-10	D1-Phi-10
54 Hepburn, Brandon	LB	6-4	235	1	Florida A&M	FA-14	D7-Det-13
52 Jones, Brad	LB	6-3	242	6	Colorado	FA-GB-15	D7-GB-09
90 Smith, Marcus	LB	6-3	251	1	Louisville	D1-14	D1-Phi-14
95 Kendricks, Mychal	LB	6-0	240	3	California	D2a-12	D2a-Phi-12
57 Long, Travis	LB	6-4	255	1	Wash. State	FA-13	FA-Phi-13
59 Ryans, DeMeco	LB	6-1	247	9	Alabama	T-Hou-12	D2-Hou-06
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
38 Biggers, E.J.	CB	6-0	185	6	Western Mich.	FA-Was-15	D7a-TB-09
22 Boykin, Brandon	CB	5-10	185	3	Georgia	D4-12	D4-Phi-12
23 Carroll II, Nolan	CB	6-1	205	5	Maryland	FA-Mia-14	D5a-Mia-10
21 Couplin, Jerome	S	6-1	215	1	William & Mary	PS-Det-14	FA-Det-14
27 Jenkins, Malcolm	S	6-0	204	6	Ohio State	FA-NO-14	D1-NO-09
42 Maragos, Chris	S	5-10	200	5	Wisconsin	FA-Sea-14	FA-SF-10
41 Maxwell, Byron	CB	6-1	207	4	Clemson	FA-Sea-15	D6-Sea-11
33 Prosinski, Chris	S	6-1	208	4	Wyoming	FA-14	D4-Jac-11
30 Reynolds, Ed	S	6-1	207	1	Stanford	D5-14	D5-Phi-14
26 Thurmond III, Walter	CB	5-11	190	5	Oregon	FA-NYG-15	D4a-Sea-10
37 Watkins, Jaylen	DB	5-11	194	1	Florida	D4-14	D4-Phi-14
28 Wolff, Earl	S	5-11	210	2	NC State	D5-13	D5-Phi-13
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
46 Dorenbos, Jon	LS	6-0	250	12	UTEP	FA-06	FA-Buf-03
8 Jones, Donnie	P	6-2	221	11	LSU	FA-Hou-13	D7-Sea-04
1 Parkey, Cody	K	6-0	193	1	Auburn	T-Ind-14	FA-Ind-14

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	14	Riley Cooper
	19	Miles Austin
WR	17	Nelson Agholor (R)
	13	Josh Huff
WR	81	Jordan Matthews
	4	G.J. Kinne
LT	71	Jason Peters
	66	Andrew Gardner
LG	69	Evan Mathis
	67	Dennis Kelly
C	62	Jason Kelce
	63	David Molk
RG	76	Allen Barbre
	64	Matt Tobin
RT	65	Lane Johnson
	77	Kevin Graf
TE	87	Brent Celek
	86	Zach Ertz
QB	7	Sam Bradford
	3	Mark Sanchez
RB	29	DeMarco Murray
	24	Ryan Mathews

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	91	Fletcher Cox
	93	Brandon Bair
NG	96	Bennie Logan
	94	Beau Allen
DE	72	Cedric Thornton
	75	Vinny Curry
OLB	98	Connor Barwin
	90	Marcus Smith
ILB	95	Mychal Kendricks
	58	Jordan Hicks (R)
ILB	50	Kiko Alonso
	59	DeMeco Ryans
OLB	55	Brandon Graham
	56	Bryan Braman
CB	26	Walter Thurmond
	23	Nolan Carroll
CB	31	Byron Maxwell
	22	Brandon Boykin
SS	28	Earl Wolff
	32	Eric Rowe (R)
FS	27	Malcolm Jenkins
	42	Chris Maragos

SPECIALISTS

K	1	Cody Parkey
P	8	Donnie Jones
KR	13	Josh Huff
PR	43	Darren Sproles

SCOUTING THE EAGLES

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP PHILADELPHIA "Sam Bradford has not been able to stay healthy, and every time he drops back beginning in OTAs, the Eagles' organization will be holding its collective breath. ... Even before the QB surprise, there was the trade of running back LeSean McCoy to Buffalo for linebacker Kiko Alonso, who missed all of 2014 with a torn ACL. Word has it that they felt McCoy was overpriced and spent too much time going east-west. ... Prior to last season, DeMarco Murray battled his own injury concerns before breaking out to lead the NFL in rushing. The expectation is that he will give Chip Kelly a more dependable north-south option as a runner, and don't forget Ryan Mathews was inked as well. ... The tight ends are very competent in Zach Ertz and Brent Celek, while USC's Nelson Agholor was added to a deficient mix of wide receivers as their first-round pick. ... Kelly's unique offense has put up terrific numbers in his first two seasons, but it certainly is a scheme that leaves the defense on the field. ... Defensive end Fletcher Cox is the real deal and scheme-versatile. ... Alonso will help DeMeco Ryans serve as a signal-caller, and both can help get Mychal Kendricks pointed in the right direction. ... The cornerback position has been retooled with the additions of Byron Maxwell (Seahawks) and Walter Thurmond (Giants) in free agency."

2015 SCHEDULE

					2014 NFL RANKINGS			
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 14	at Atlanta (Mon.)	7:10	6-10	378.2 (8)	398.3 (32)	23.8 (12)	26.1 (27)
2	Sept. 20	Dallas	4:25	12-4	383.6 (7)	355.1 (19)	29.2 (5)	22.0 (15)
3	Sept. 27	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	326.6 (22)	327.2 (6)	17.7 (28)	25.1 (24)
4	Oct. 4	at Washington	1:00	4-12	358.6 (13)	357.0 (20)	18.8 (26)	27.4 (29)
5	Oct. 11	New Orleans	1:00	7-9	411.4 (1)	384.0 (31)	25.1 (9)	26.5 (28)
6	Oct. 19	N.Y. Giants (Mon.)	8:30	6-10	367.2 (10)	375.8 (29)	23.8 (13)	25.0 (22)
7	Oct. 25	at Carolina	8:30	7-8-1	346.7 (16)	339.8 (10)	21.2 (19)	23.4 (21)
8		BYE						
9	Nov. 8	at Dallas	8:30	12-4	383.6 (7)	355.1 (19)	29.2 (5)	22.0 (15)
10	Nov. 15	Miami	1:00	8-8	350.1 (14)	343.4 (12)	24.3 (11)	23.3 (20)
11	Nov. 22	Tampa Bay	1:00	2-14	292.0 (30)	368.9 (25)	17.3 (29)	25.6 (25)
12	Nov. 26	at Detroit (Thu.)	12:30	11-5	340.8 (19)	300.9 (2)	20.1 (22)	17.6 (2)
13	Dec. 6	at New England	4:25	12-4	365.5 (11)	344.1 (13)	29.3 (4)	19.6 (8)
14	Dec. 13	Buffalo	1:00	9-7	318.5 (26)	312.2 (4)	21.4 (18)	18.1 (4)
15	Dec. 20	Arizona	1:00	11-5	319.8 (24)	368.2 (24)	19.4 (24)	18.7 (5)
16	Dec. 26	Washington (Sat.)	8:25	4-12	358.6 (13)	357.0 (20)	18.8 (26)	27.4 (29)
17	Jan. 3	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	6-10	367.2 (10)	375.8 (29)	23.8 (13)	25.0 (22)

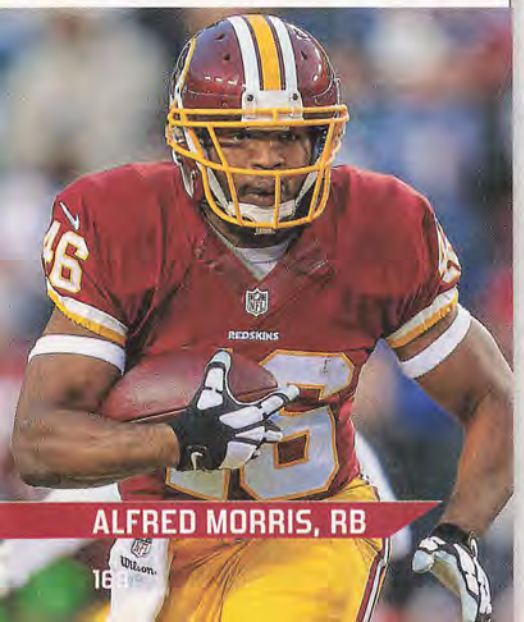
WASHINGTON REDSKINS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Jay Gruden
RECORD WITH TEAM: 4-12
CAREER RECORD: 4-12
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Sean McVay
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Joe Barry
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Ben Kotwica
QUARTERBACKS: Matt Cavanaugh
RUNNING BACKS: Randy Jordan
WIDE RECEIVERS: Ike Hilliard
TIGHT ENDS: Wes Phillips
OFFENSIVE LINE: Bill Callahan
DEFENSIVE LINE: Robb Akey
INSIDE LINEBACKERS: Kirk Olivadotti
DEFENSIVE BACKS: Perry Fewell

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs



ALFRED MORRIS, RB

4 NFC EAST FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER: Daniel Snyder
PRESIDENT: Bruce Allen
VP OF FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION: Eric Schaffer
GENERAL MANAGER: Scot McCloughan
STADIUM: FedExField (79,000)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.redskins.com
TICKETS: 301-276-6800
TRAINING CAMP: Bon Secours Washington Redskins Training Center (Richmond, Va.)

If 2014 showed the Washington Redskins in a state of anchorless drift — toggling between three quarterbacks, losing five games by 20 or more points and beset by the dysfunction and intrigue that have come to define the Daniel Snyder era — the 2015 version, at least in theory, will emphasize stability.

For Year 2 of Jay Gruden's tenure as head coach, the team hired a proven personnel man, in Scot McCloughan, to be its GM — and more important, gave him full autonomy on personnel moves. The Redskins also announced early in the offseason that Robert Griffin III would be the starting quarterback — ending any controversy before it could begin.

The draft brought an emphasis on size and volume, as the team amassed 10 picks and earned widespread praise in the industry for its strategy. But having won just seven games the past two seasons, and with one winning season since 2007, this probably won't be a speedy turnaround.

OFFENSE For a coach who came in with a reputation as an offensive savant, Gruden's first year steering the Redskins' offense was a disaster. The quarterback position became a revolving door of mediocrity, and the three starters — Griffin, Kirk Cousins and Colt McCoy — were sacked a staggering total of 58 times. Meanwhile the running game, behind top back Alfred Morris, regressed from the year before. Morris, in his third year, saw his carries, yards and yards per carry decline for the second straight year.

But Gruden and McCloughan ended the QB controversy early in the offseason by not only naming Griffin the starter but also picking up his costly option for 2016 — a surprising show of confidence. Then they set about building Griffin a better offensive line. They used three of their 10 draft picks on offensive linemen — including their top pick, fifth overall, on Iowa tackle Brandon Scherff, who is expected to start on the right side, opposite veteran Trent Williams. They also used a third-round pick to take running back Matt Jones out of Florida, a big, punishing runner.

With DeSean Jackson (a league-leading 20.9 yards per reception), Pierre Garçon and Andre Roberts as wideouts and Jordan Reed at tight end, the Redskins have solid skill-position targets for Griffin. The key in 2015 will be protecting him better. If he gets sacked at a rate of roughly four per game, as he did in 2014, it will be another long year.

But despite — or perhaps because of — the faith the Redskins showed in him, this will be a pivotal season for Griffin. If he has any hope of recapturing the dynamism he showed as a rookie in 2012 (if that is even possible after two injury-plagued seasons), it needs to happen in 2015. Griffin has always been big on personal mottos, from 2012's "Know Your Why" to 2013's "All In For Week One" to 2014's "This Is For Us." But after absorbing copious amounts of criticism for his penchant for oversharing with the media and on his own social-media accounts, Griffin has been determined to scale back in both regards. That may explain why, for a 2015 motto, he appears to be going with, "Talk Small and Play Big."

With Cousins and McCoy both expected to be on the roster again, Gruden probably won't wait long to pull the trigger on a quarterback change if Griffin doesn't play big.

DEFENSE The Redskins have almost totally revamped a defense that badly needed revamping. Change started at the top, when the team parted ways with embattled coordinator Jim Haslett and tabbed Chargers linebackers coach Joe Barry as his replacement. Next, the Redskins severed ties with pass rusher Brian Orakpo, who never developed into the dominant player the team envisioned when it picked him in the first round of the 2009 draft.

The leader of Barry's defense now is unquestionably outside linebacker Ryan Kerrigan, who established himself as arguably the best in the NFC East with 13.5 sacks and five forced fumbles in 2014. To build around Kerrigan, the Redskins turned both to free agency (linemen Stephen Paea and Terrance Knighton, and defensive backs Jeron Johnson and Chris Culliver) and the draft, where they used two of their top six draft picks on linebackers — Mississippi State's Preston Smith, who could become Orakpo's replacement on the edge, and tackling machine Martrell Spaight of Arkansas.

McCloughan also turned to his past in bolstering the defensive line and secondary, signing lineman Ricky Jean-Francois and trading for two-time Pro Bowl free safety Dashon Goldson, both of whom he selected in the draft at previous stops.

It is possible, when it all shakes out, that the Redskins could have six new starters on defense, a staggering number — until you realize how bad this unit was in 2014.

Morris, Jackson: Tom DiPace; Cheerleader: Athlon Sports

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM... When the Redskins' offensive line coach position came open, the team looked to its fiercest rival for a replacement, stealing away Bill Callahan from the Cowboys, where he had helped transform their unit into one of the best in the game. Callahan has connections to both team president Bruce Allen and coach Jay Gruden.

BACK IN THE FIRST ROUND AGAIN This year's draft marked the first since 2012 that the Redskins had a pick in the first round, as their top picks in 2013 and 2014 went to the St. Louis Rams as part of the trade that brought Robert Griffin III to Washington.

FREE AGENCY AIN'T FREE The Redskins broke with recent history by staying out of the elite free-agent market, having been burned a number of times in the recent past on 32- or 34-year-old past-their-prime players who inevitably broke down or otherwise failed to contribute very much. Instead, the Redskins were judicious in free agency, making some understated but solid moves. On defense, the team signed five potential contributors, none of whom were older than 29.

THE STATS SOMETIMES LIE Among the Redskins' more curious picks of the 2015 draft, but one that could still pay off, was Evan Spencer, a wide receiver out of Ohio State who caught only 15 passes during the Buckeyes' 2014 national title season — but whom Ohio State coach Urban Meyer called the team's MVP. Spencer was the Buckeyes' special teams captain and a "selfless" player who did anything asked of him. If he makes the Redskins' roster, that will be why.

DON'T REED INTO IT Few players on the Redskins' roster have confounded management as much as tight end Jordan Reed, whose tantalizing, big-play ability makes him a favorite target anytime he is on the field — but who can't seem to stay there for long. Since his arrival as a third-round draft pick in 2013, Reed has missed 12 of the Redskins' 32 games with injuries, including five in 2014 with a lingering hamstring injury. Now, 2015 sets up as a make-or-break year for him.

SECONDARILY, JUST AWFUL The Redskins' pass defense gave up 3,990 yards and 35 touchdowns while intercepting opposing quarterbacks only seven times. That was good for an opponents' passer rating of 108.3. In other words, the Redskins turned every opposing quarterback into the equivalent of Aaron Rodgers (career passer rating: 106.0).

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
CB	Chris Culliver	San Francisco
S	Dashon Goldson	Tampa Bay
DL	Ricky Jean-Francois	Indianapolis
S	Jeron Johnson	Seattle
DL	Terrance Knighton	Denver
DL	Stephen Paea	Chicago

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
CB	E.J. Biggers	Philadelphia
RB	Roy Helu Jr.	Oakland
DE	Jarvis Jenkins	Chicago
LB	Brian Orakpo	Tennessee

DESEAN JACKSON, WR

2014 RESULTS (4-12)

Sept. 7	at Houston	L	6-17
Sept. 14	Jacksonville	W	41-10
Sept. 21	at Philadelphia	L	34-37
Sept. 25	N.Y. Giants	L	14-45
Oct. 6	Seattle	L	17-27
Oct. 12	at Arizona	L	20-30
Oct. 19	Tennessee	W	19-17
Oct. 27	at Dallas (ot)	W	20-17
Nov. 2	at Minnesota	L	26-29
Nov. 16	Tampa Bay	L	7-27
Nov. 23	at San Francisco	L	13-17
Nov. 30	at Indianapolis	L	27-49
Dec. 7	St. Louis	L	0-24
Dec. 14	at N.Y. Giants	L	13-24
Dec. 20	Philadelphia	W	27-24
Dec. 28	Dallas	L	17-44

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Robert Griffin III	214	147	1,694	4	6
Kirk Cousins	204	126	1,710	10	9
Colt McCoy	128	91	1,057	4	3
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Alfred Morris	265	1,074	4.1	8	
Roy Helu	40	216	5.4	1	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Pierre Garçon	68	752	11.1	3	
DeSean Jackson	56	1,169	20.9	6	
Jordan Reed	50	465	9.3	0	
Roy Helu	42	477	11.4	2	
Niles Paul	39	507	13.0	1	

KICKING: Kai Forbath, 24-27 FGs, 31-32 PATs, 103 points
TACKLES: Keenan Robinson, 109; Ryan Clark, 102
SACKS: Ryan Kerrigan, 13.5; Jason Hatcher, 5.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Bashaud Breeland, 2; Five players tied with 1

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	358.6	13	8
Rushing	105.7	19	9
Passing	252.9	11	6
Scoring	18.8	26	15
Third Down %	31.5	30	16
Punt Returns	7.2	T20	12
Kick Returns	21.8	T24	T11
TEAM DEFENSE	**Stat**	**NFL Rank**	**NFC Rank**
Total	357.0	20	9
Rushing	107.6	12	5
Passing	249.4	24	9
Scoring	27.4	T30	15
Interceptions	7	T28	16
Sacks	36	T16	T10
Turnover Differential	-12	30	15

SPECIALISTS It's difficult to recall a time when the Redskins' special teams were anything other than abysmal. It's no wonder the team targeted this area in their draft haul of 10 picks, taking, among others, a potential return man (wide receiver Jamison Crowder), a core coverage man (safety Kyshoen Jarrett) and at least two other players who could have immediate impacts on special teams (linebacker Spaight and receiver Evan Spencer). Otherwise, most of the major players from 2014 — punter Tress Way, kicker Kai Forbath, long snapper Nick Sundberg and primary return man Roberts — all return in 2015. The most immediate question will be whether Crowder, the fourth-round pick, supplants Roberts as the top punt-return man. Don't be surprised as well if Forbath, an accurate kicker but one lacking in length, finds himself fending off a challenger for his job in training camp.

RYAN KERRIGAN, LB

FINAL ANALYSIS In previous Redskins seasons, management may have chosen to blow up the franchise by ditching Griffin, trading away picks to move up in the draft and nab the latest flavor-of-the-month phenom signal-caller. To their credit, McCloughan and Gruden avoided that temptation and did exactly the opposite — doubling down on Griffin as their starting quarterback, trading down in the draft to stockpile extra picks and emerging with some new cornerstone players and a lot of added depth.

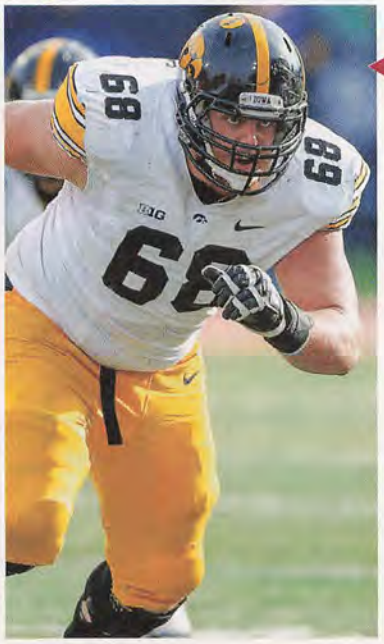
As before, so much of the offensive success comes down to keeping Griffin healthy and on his feet. If the newly rebuilt offensive line is as solid as the Redskins hope, that will be much easier to envision, and may even deliver a boost to a running game that hasn't been the same since Griffin stopped being a significant running threat himself.

Defensively, there will be new looks both up front and in the secondary. With Orakpo gone and veteran cornerback DeAngelo Hall likely fighting to keep his job in training camp, the very soul of the defense is in the process of being transformed — which, if you know anything about the Redskins, can only be seen as a good thing.

This probably isn't a team that can challenge the Cowboys and Eagles atop the division in 2015, but even a finish somewhere around .500 — which is entirely possible — would be considered a significant step in the right direction.

DRAFT 2015 *REDSKINS* IN THE DRAFT

B



RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Brandon Scherff	OL	6-5	319	Iowa
2.	Preston Smith	LB	6-5	271	Mississippi State
3.	Matt Jones	RB	6-2	231	Florida
4.	Jamison Crowder	WR	5-8	185	Duke
4.	Arie Kouandjio	G	6-5	315	Alabama
5.	Martrell Spaight	LB	6-0	236	Arkansas
6.	Kyshoen Jarrett	S	5-10	200	Virginia Tech
6.	Tevin Mitchel	CB	6-0	190	Arkansas
6.	Evan Spencer	WR	6-2	208	Ohio State
7.	Austin Reiter	C	6-3	296	South Florida

In a marked contrast to previous seasons, the Redskins constructed a defined draft strategy and then stuck to it. The strategy, scripted by GM Scot McCloughan, called for trading down to accrue extra picks, and focusing those picks on size, toughness and special teams adaptability, particularly in the later rounds. Brandon Scherff, the top pick, will almost certainly start immediately at right tackle, a decided weak spot for the Redskins in 2014, and Preston Smith will compete with 2014 second-rounder Trent Murphy for playing time as an edge rusher. Matt Jones and Arie Kouandjio most likely slot in as offensive reserves, while the rest of the Redskins' draft haul will need to prove their special teams bona fides to earn roster spots.

Kerrigan: Tom DiPace; Scherff: Joe Robbins

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
8	Cousins, Kirk	QB	6-3	202	3	Michigan State	D4a-12	D4a-Was-12
10	Griffin III, Robert	QB	6-2	222	3	Baylor	D1-12	D1-Was-12
16	McCoy, Colt	QB	6-1	215	5	Texas	FA-Cle-14	D3a-Cle-10
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
45	Hill, Michael	RB	5-10	210	2	Missouri Western St.	FA-14	FA-SD-13
46	Morris, Alfred	RB	5-10	224	3	Florida Atlantic	D6a-12	D6a-Was-12
32	Redd Jr., Silas	RB	5-10	200	1	USC	FA-14	FA-Was-14
37	Thompson, Chris	RB	5-8	193	2	Florida State	D5a-13	D5a-Was-13
36	Young, Darrel	FB	5-11	251	5	Villanova	FA-10	FA-Was-09
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
83	Dixon, Chase	TE	6-5	240	1	Central Arkansas	FA-14	FA-Sea-14
88	Garçon, Pierre	WR	6-0	216	7	Mount Union	FA-Ind-12	D6-Ind-08
14	Grant, Ryan	WR	6-0	193	1	Tulane	D5-14	D5-Was-14
87	Hamm, JeRon	TE	6-3	236	1	UL Monroe	FA-14	FA-NO-14
11	Jackson, DeSean	WR	5-10	178	7	California	FA-Phi-14	D2b-Phi-08
15	Lockett, Colin	WR	5-11	188	1	San Diego State	FA-14	FA-Cin-14
84	Paul, Niles	TE	6-1	241	4	Nebraska	D5b-11	D5b-Was-11
82	Paulsen, Logan	TE	6-5	261	5	UCLA	FA-10	FA-Was-10
86	Reed, Jordan	TE	6-2	237	2	Florida	D3-13	D3-Was-13
12	Roberts, Andre	WR	5-11	187	5	The Citadel	FA-Ari-14	D3-Ari-10
19	Ross, Rashad	WR	6-0	181	1	Arizona State	FA-14	FA-Ten-13
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
66	Chester, Chris	G/C	6-3	303	9	Oklahoma	FA-Bal-11	D2-Bal-06
68	Compton, Tom	T	6-5	308	2	South Dakota	D6b-12	D6b-Was-12
63	Larsen, Tyler	OL	6-4	315	1	Utah State	FA-15	FA-Mia-14
77	Lauvao, Shawn	G	6-3	315	5	Arizona State	FA-Cle-14	D3b-Cle-10
67	LeRibeus, Josh	G	6-2	315	3	SMU	D3-12	D3-Was-12
78	Lichtensteiger, Kory	C/G	6-2	296	6	Bowling Green	FA-10	D4-Den-08
60	Long, Spencer	G	6-5	311	1	Nebraska	D3b-14	D3b-Was-14
76	Moses, Morgan	T	6-6	318	1	Virginia	D3a-14	D3a-Was-14
79	Nixon, Xavier	T	6-6	330	2	Florida	W-Ind-15	FA-Was-13
62	Stevens, Tevita	OL	6-1	302	1	Utah	FA-13	FA-Was-13
71	Williams, Trent	T	6-5	337	5	Oklahoma	D1-10	D1-Was-10
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
92	Baker, Chris	DL	6-2	325	3	Hampton	FA-11	FA-Den-09
64	Golston, Kedric	DL	6-4	318	9	Georgia	D6-06	D6-Was-06
97	Hatcher, Jason	DE	6-6	299	9	Grambling State	FA-Dal-14	D3b-Dal-06
99	Jean-Francois, Ricky	DT	6-3	297	6	LSU	FA-Ind-15	D7-SF-09
73	Kearse, Frank	DE	6-5	310	3	Alabama A&M	FA-14	D7-Mia-11
98	Knighton, Terrance	DT	6-3	331	6	Temple	FA-Den-15	D3a-Jac-09
90	Paea, Stephen	DT	6-1	300	4	Oregon State	FA-Chi-15	D2-Chi-11
75	Thomas, Robert	NT	6-3	325	1	Arkansas	FA-14	FA-Was-14
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
51	Compton, Will	LB	6-1	230	1	Nebraska	FA-13	FA-Was-13
58	Davis, JaGared	LB	6-0	238	1	SMU	PS-KC-14	FA-Hou-13
55	Hayward, Adam	LB	6-1	240	8	Portland State	FA-TB-14	D6-TB-07
53	Jeffcoat, Jackson	LB	6-3	253	1	Texas	FA-14	FA-Sea-14
91	Kerrigan, Ryan	LB	6-4	260	4	Purdue	D1-11	D1-Was-11
93	Murphy, Trent	LB	6-5	258	1	Stanford	D2-14	D2-Was-14
56	Riley Jr., Perry	LB	6-0	238	5	LSU	D4-10	D4-Was-10
52	Robinson, Keenan	LB	6-3	238	3	Texas	D4b-12	D4b-Was-12
54	Williams, Trevardo	LB	6-1	237	2	Connecticut	FA-14	D4-Hou-13
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
39	Amerson, David	CB	6-1	205	2	NC State	D2-13	D2-Was-13
26	Breeland, Bashaud	CB	5-11	197	1	Clemson	D4-14	D4-Was-14
32	Bridget Jr., Courtney	CB	6-3	195	1	Hampton	FA-14	FA-Was-14
29	Culliver, Chris	CB	6-0	199	4	South Carolina	FA-SF-15	D3-SF-11
47	Davis, Akeem	S	6-1	200	1	Memphis	FA-14	FA-Was-14
38	Goldson, Dashon	S	6-2	200	8	Washington	T-TB-15	D4b-SF-07
23	Hall, DeAngelo	CB	5-10	198	11	Virginia Tech	FA-08	D1-Atl-04
35	Ihenacho, Duke	S	6-1	207	3	San Jose State	W-Den-14	FA-Den-12
20	Johnson, Jeron	S	5-10	212	4	Boise State	FA-Sea-15	FA-Sea-11
22	Porter, Tracy	CB	5-11	188	7	Indiana	FA-Oak-14	D2-NO-08
34	Robinson, Trenton	S	5-9	195	3	Michigan State	FA-13	D6-SF-12
38	Rogers, Justin	CB	5-11	181	4	Richmond	FA-14	D7-Buf-11
41	Thomas, Phillip	S	6-0	223	2	Fresno State	D4-13	D4-Was-13
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
2	Forbath, Kai	K	5-11	197	3	UCLA	FA-12	FA-Dal-11
57	Sundberg, Nick	LS	6-0	264	5	California	FA-10	FA-Car-09
5	Way, Tress	P	6-1	215	1	Oklahoma	W-Chi-14	FA-Chi-13

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	88	Pierre Garçon
	14	Ryan Grant
WR	11	DeSean Jackson
	12	Andre Roberts
LT	71	Trent Williams
	76	Morgan Moses
LG	77	Shaun Lauvao
	74	Arie Kouandjio (R)
C	78	Kory Lichtensteiger
	66	Chris Chester
RG	66	Chris Chester
	60	Spencer Long
RT	75	Brandon Scherff (R)
	68	Tom Compton
TE	86	Jordan Reed
	84	Niles Paul
QB	10	Robert Griffin III
	8	Kirk Cousins
FB	36	Darrel Young
	31	Matt Jones (R)
RB	46	Alfred Morris
	31	Matt Jones (R)

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	90	Stephen Paea
	73	Frank Kearse
NG	98	Terrance Knighton
	92	Chris Baker
DE	97	Jason Hatcher
	99	Ricky Jean-Francois
OLB	91	Ryan Kerrigan
	94	Preston Smith (R)
ILB	56	Perry Riley Jr.
	51	Will Compton
ILB	52	Keenan Robinson
	50	Martrell Spaight (R)
OLB	93	Trent Murphy
	94	Preston Smith (R)
CB	26	Bashaud Breeland
	23	DeAngelo Hall
CB	29	Chris Culliver
	39	David Amerson
SS	20	Jeron Johnson
	41	Phillip Thomas
FS	38	Dashon Goldson
	41	Phillip Thomas

SPECIALISTS

K	2	Kai Forbath
P	5	Tress Way
KR	12	Andre Roberts
PR	12	Andre Roberts

SCOUTING THE REDSKINS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP WASHINGTON "The set of skill players in D.C. is not an issue with DeSean Jackson, Pierre Garçon and Andre Roberts, plus tight ends Jordan Reed and Niles Paul and running back Alfred Morris. Reed is super-talented, but has to find a way to stay healthy. ... The line is simply awful other than left tackle Trent Williams, and he is no consensus Pro Bowler. Hence, their selection of Brandon Scherff as a Day 1 starter at No. 5 overall. ... Defensively, Jim Haslett survived one season under Jay Gruden, but now Joe Barry is in charge. ... They tried to rebuild the defensive line by signing Stephen Paea (Bears), Terrance Knighton (Broncos) and Ricky Jean-Francois (Colts) during free agency. ... Outside linebacker Ryan Kerrigan continues to be one of the more under-appreciated players in the NFL. All he does is play hard and produce each year. The hope is that Trent Murphy and second-rounder Preston Smith can become part of a three-man pass-rushing rotation. ... The secondary has a lot of names, but not sure how good they will be. ... RGIII has been his own soap opera, but the truth is that the offensive line and defense have been in disrepair, and until those things are fixed, it may not matter if he 'talks small and plays big' in 2015. It's been a roller-coaster ride since they drafted him."

2015 SCHEDULE

Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	2014 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	Miami	1:00	8-8	350.1 (14)	343.4 (12)	24.3 (11)	23.3 (20)
2	Sept. 20	St. Louis	1:00	6-10	314.7 (28)	351.6 (17)	20.3 (20)	22.1 (16)
3	Sept. 24	at N.Y. Giants (Thu.)	8:25	6-10	367.2 (10)	375.8 (29)	23.8 (13)	25.0 (22)
4	Oct. 4	Philadelphia	1:00	10-6	396.8 (5)	375.6 (28)	29.6 (3)	25.0 (22)
5	Oct. 11	at Atlanta	1:00	6-10	378.2 (8)	398.3 (32)	23.8 (12)	26.1 (27)
6	Oct. 18	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	326.6 (22)	327.2 (6)	17.7 (28)	25.1 (24)
7	Oct. 25	Tampa Bay	1:00	2-14	292.0 (30)	368.9 (25)	17.3 (29)	25.6 (25)
8		BYE						
9	Nov. 8	at New England	1:00	12-4	365.5 (11)	344.1 (13)	29.3 (4)	19.6 (8)
10	Nov. 15	New Orleans	1:00	7-9	411.4 (1)	384.0 (31)	25.1 (9)	26.5 (28)
11	Nov. 22	at Carolina	1:00	7-8-1	346.7 (16)	339.8 (10)	21.2 (19)	23.4 (21)
12	Nov. 29	N.Y. Giants	1:00	6-10	367.2 (10)	375.8 (29)	23.8 (13)	25.0 (22)
13	Dec. 7	Dallas (Mon.)	8:30	12-4	383.6 (7)	355.1 (19)	29.2 (5)	22.0 (15)
14	Dec. 13	at Chicago	1:00	5-11	327.1 (21)	377.1 (30)	19.9 (23)	27.6 (31)
15	Dec. 20	Buffalo	1:00	9-7	318.5 (26)	312.2 (4)	21.4 (18)	18.1 (4)
16	Dec. 26	at Philadelphia (Sat.)	8:25	10-6	396.8 (5)	375.6 (28)	29.6 (3)	25.0 (22)
17	Jan. 3	at Dallas	1:00	12-4	383.6 (7)	355.1 (19)	29.2 (5)	22.0 (15)

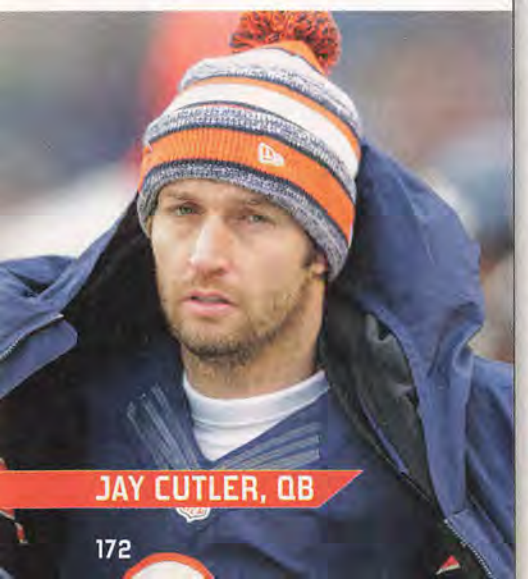
CHICAGO BEARS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: John Fox
RECORD WITH TEAM: 0–0
CAREER RECORD: 119–89
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Adam Gase
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Vic Fangio
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Jeff Rodgers
QUARTERBACKS: Dowell Loggains
RUNNING BACKS: Stan Drayton
WIDE RECEIVERS: Mike Groh
TIGHT ENDS: Frank Smith
OFFENSIVE LINE: Dave Magazu
DEFENSIVE LINE: Jay Rodgers
LINEBACKERS: Glenn Pires
OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS: Clint Hurtt
DEFENSIVE BACKS: Ed Donatell

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs



JAY CUTLER, QB

4 NFC NORTH FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN: George H. McCaskey
PRESIDENT/CEO: Ted Phillips
GENERAL MANAGER: Ryan Pace
DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL: Josh Lucas
STADIUM: Soldier Field (61,500)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.chicagobears.com
TICKETS: 847-615-2327
TRAINING CAMP: Olivet Nazarene University (Bourbonnais, ILL.)

New Bears head coach John Fox and his staff have an infinitely easier task than the one Marc Trestman undertook in 2013 and failed to achieve. Fox will not be burdened by lofty expectations. He inherits a 5–11 team that isn't realistically expected to contend in Year 1. Trestman took over a 10–6 team that barely missed the playoffs and was considered, right or wrong, to be primed for a deep playoff run. Never happened. Under Trestman, the Bears regressed to 8–8 and then to the 5–11 disaster that terminated his employment and ushered in Fox, whose last three Broncos teams went 38–10 in the regular season and won the AFC West in each of his four seasons. But Fox failed to produce the postseason success expected by team president John Elway and was replaced by Gary Kubiak.

In Chicago, Fox has the additional advantage of a much more accomplished and highly regarded staff than what Trestman was able to cobble together.

Fox has an added obstacle since the Bears will be transitioning to a 3-4 defense for the first time ever, but he's got highly respected coordinator Vic Fangio overseeing the conversion.

OFFENSE Adam Gase was one of the hottest head-coaching candidates in the offseason, interviewing for top jobs with four teams, including the Bears, but he settled for re-upping with Fox. Gase spent the previous six years in Denver, including four under Fox, the last two as offensive coordinator.

He inherits quarterback Jay Cutler, who will be playing for his fifth offensive coordinator as he enters his seventh season in Chicago. Cutler's inability to play up to his potential is the major reason the Bears' offensive coordinator job has been a revolving door of men who have tried but never succeeded in getting Cutler to avoid the mistakes and inconsistencies that have plagued his career. Last season was no different. Cutler's 88.6 passer rating was the second best of his career, but he led the NFL with 24 turnovers, including 18 interceptions, which tied for second most in his nine-year career.

All-purpose, workhorse running back Matt Forté enters his contract year wanting an extension that he's unlikely to get. He turns 30 in December and, despite becoming only the second player in NFL history to gain at least 1,000 yards rushing while catching at least 100 passes last year, he is not getting better. He averaged just 3.9 yards per carry last season, his lowest number by far in five years, and he averaged a pedestrian 7.9 yards on his 102 receptions. Forté had one run of 20 yards or longer last season on 266 carries. Cutler had three on just 39 attempts.

One of new GM Ryan Pace's first major personnel moves was to send productive but distracting wide receiver Brandon Marshall packing. Pace sent the five-time Pro Bowler and a seventh-round draft pick to the Jets and was content to get just a fifth-round pick in return. The Bears used the seventh overall selection in the draft on his replacement, Kevin White.

The Bears also signed free agent Eddie Royal, a quick, veteran slot receiver who gives them something they've been missing. Royal had a bounce-back season with the Chargers in 2014, posting his best numbers since his rookie year in 2008 with the Broncos, when his quarterback was, yep, Cutler. The Bears had high expectations for long, lanky Marquess Wilson a year ago, but a fractured collarbone in training camp limited him to seven games.

Alshon Jeffery is the go-to guy with Marshall gone and White a bit of a project. Jeffery has nice size, a wide catch radius and the ability to win jump balls downfield. He has 174 receptions for 2,554 yards and 17 touchdowns in the previous two seasons, but it remains to be seen how he handles the No. 1 role without Marshall around.

Tight end Martellus Bennett stayed away from a voluntary minicamp, wanting a new contract just halfway through his four-year, $20.4 million deal. Difficult as it is to believe, Bennett may be more self-involved than Marshall, but he turned in a career year in 2014.

The offensive line, not great to begin with, was devastated by injuries. The guard tandem of Kyle Long and Matt Slauson is excellent, but left tackle Jermon Bushrod's best years appear to be behind him, and the Bears need better play at right tackle than they got from Jordan Mills. Will Montgomery seems like a stopgap solution at center. Michael Ola, a rookie last year with CFL experience, showed exceptional versatility, starting games at every O-line position except center.

DEFENSE Fox and Pace downplay the effect that a scheme change will have on a roster built to play a 4-3, because they'll play 4-3 on some passing downs, making the defense more of a hybrid. Defensive linemen Ray McDonald and Jarvis Jenkins were signed based

Cutler, Forte: Tom Lynn; Fans: Larry W. Smith

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED Born in Nigeria, sixth-round pick Tayo Fabuluje came to the U.S. as a toddler. When he was 5, his father, a dispatcher with a trucking company, was deported for his role in a conspiracy to rob drivers on their routes. Fabuluje began his college career at BYU but redshirted his freshman year. He transferred to TCU to be closer to home and sat out per NCAA rules. He started 12 games in 2012 but didn't play football in '13, dropping out so he could work to support his sister after their mother was incarcerated.

BROTHER ACT Guard Kyle Long's brother Chris is a defensive end with the Rams, and tight end Martellus Bennett's brother Michael is a defensive end with the Seahawks. Cornerback Kyle Fuller's brother Corey is a wide receiver with the Lions. Safety Brock Vereen's brother Shane is a running back with the Giants, and linebacker Sam Acho's brother Emmanuel is a linebacker with the Eagles.

FORMER FOES NOW TEAMMATES Third-round center Hroniss Grasu went head-to-head with second-round nose tackle Eddie Goldman in an FBS semifinal game. "He's a very, very good player — very explosive," Grasu says. "He's a player I have a lot of respect for. I thought both of us had a really good game on each other."

DIVINE GUIDANCE While he was contemplating his options as an unrestricted free agent, safety Antrel Rolle prayed on a Sunday night for a sign to point him in the right direction. Several hours later, at 4:33 a.m., he was awakened by an e-mail: "Orbitz alert: flights to Chicago, discount fare." Rolle considered it a sign, and he wound up signing a three-year, $11.25 million deal with the Bears on March 11.

DO OVER? In 2014, Phil Emery's final season as the Bears' GM, they drafted defensive tackle Ego Ferguson in the second round, running back Ka'Deem Carey in the middle of the fourth round and safety Brock Vereen at the end of the fourth round. In 2015, Ryan Pace's first year as GM, the Bears drafted defensive tackle Eddie Goldman in the second round, running back Jeremy Langford in the fourth round and safety Adrian Amos early in the fifth, practically mirroring last year's selections. "It was really best player available the whole way through," Pace says. "And that's how it fell."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
LB	Sam Acho	Arizona
CB	Alan Ball	Jacksonville
OG	Vladimir Ducasse	Minnesota
LB	Mason Foster	Tampa Bay
DL	Jarvis Jenkins	Washington
DL	Ray McDonald	San Francisco
LB	Pernell McPhee	Baltimore
C	Will Montgomery	Denver
S	Antrel Rolle	N.Y. Giants
WR	Eddie Royal	San Diego

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
LB	Lance Briggs	Free Agent
S	Chris Conte	Tampa Bay
C	Roberto Garza	Free Agent
WR	Brandon Marshall	N.Y. Jets
DT	Stephen Paea	Washington
CB	Charles Tillman	Carolina
LB	D.J. Williams	Free Agent

MATT FORTÉ, RB

2014 RESULTS (5-11)

Sept. 7	Buffalo (ot)	L	20-23
Sept. 14	at San Francisco	W	28-20
Sept. 22	at N.Y. Jets	W	27-19
Sept. 28	Green Bay	L	17-38
Oct. 5	at Carolina	L	24-31
Oct. 12	at Atlanta	W	27-13
Oct. 19	Miami	L	14-27
Oct. 26	at New England	L	23-51
Nov. 9	at Green Bay	L	14-55
Nov. 16	Minnesota	W	21-13
Nov. 23	Tampa Bay	W	21-13
Nov. 27	at Detroit	L	17-34
Dec. 4	Dallas	L	28-41
Dec. 15	New Orleans	L	15-31
Dec. 21	Detroit	L	14-20
Dec. 28	at Minnesota	L	9-13

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jay Cutler	561	370	3,812	28	18

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Matt Forté	266	1,038	3.9	6
Jay Cutler	39	191	4.9	2
Ka'Deem Carey	36	158	4.4	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Matt Forté	102	808	7.9	4
Martellus Bennett	90	916	10.2	6
Alshon Jeffery	85	1,133	13.3	10
Brandon Marshall	61	721	11.8	8
Marquess Wilson	17	140	8.2	1
Dante Rosario	16	116	7.3	0

KICKING: Robbie Gould, 9-12 FGs; 28-29 PATs, 55 points
TACKLES: Ryan Mundy, 103; Jon Bostic, 84
SACKS: Willie Young, 10.0; Jay Ratliff, 6.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Ryan Mundy, 4; Kyle Fuller, 4

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	327.1	21	12
Rushing	90.1	27	13
Passing	237.0	15	9
Scoring	19.9	23	12
Third Down %	37.7	24	13
Punt Returns	5.2	32	16
Kick Returns	23.5	T14	T7

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	377.1	30	14
Rushing	112.7	17	7
Passing	264.4	30	14
Scoring	27.6	31	16
Interceptions	14	T14	T8
Sacks	39	T16	8
Turnover Differential	-5	T22	12

on their 3-4 experience, and 336-pound Eddie Goldman was drafted 39th overall to play nose tackle. The Bears' biggest free-agent acquisition was 280-pound Pernell McPhee, who is primarily a linebacker but has the versatility to play almost anywhere in the front seven on a 3-4. McPhee was a key backup to superstars Terrell Suggs and Elvis Dumervil last year with the Ravens, getting 7.5 sacks while playing 49 percent of the snaps. The Bears are convinced that the 26-year-old is an ascending player whose numbers will rise proportionately with increased playing time.

ALSHON JEFFERY, WR

The key to the conversion will be how former 4-3 defensive ends Jared Allen, Lamarr Houston and Willie Young adapt to playing outside linebacker in a 3-4. Young seems like a natural, but he's coming off a late-December Achilles injury. Houston will be trying to bounce back from a forgettable 2014 that ended in Week 8 when he suffered a torn ACL celebrating his only sack. The Bears also added inside linebackers Sam Acho and Mason Foster to their holdover collection of run-of-the-mill linebackers.

Veteran safety Antrel Rolle should upgrade a position that has been a weakness for years, but he'll be 33 before the season ends. Cornerback is thin: Last year's first-round pick Kyle Fuller could be a centerpiece, but he had an up-and-down rookie season, and veteran Tim Jennings slumped badly after getting a big contract following back-to-back Pro Bowl seasons.

SPECIALISTS There's no reason to believe that Robbie Gould, the seventh-most-accurate field-goal kicker in NFL history, won't bounce back from the worst season of his 10-year career. Gould hit a career-low 75 percent of his 12 attempts and missed the final four games with a quad injury. Punter Pat O'Donnell was a bit inconsistent as a rookie, but he's a keeper. The long-snapper job will probably go to free-agent addition Thomas Gafford. Late-season veteran pickup Marc Mariani upgraded the kick return game in 2014 and is the leading contender to handle punt returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Bears have been to the postseason once in eight years, and hardly anyone believes that this is a one-year fix. In his two other head-coaching stops, Fox has taken the Panthers (2003) and the Broncos (2013) to the Super Bowl. But neither of those teams was in the same division with Aaron Rodgers.

BEARS IN THE DRAFT

B-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Kevin White	WR	6-3	215	West Virginia
2.	Eddie Goldman	NT	6-4	336	Florida State
3.	Hroniss Grasu	C	6-3	297	Oregon
4.	Jeremy Langford	RB	6-0	208	Michigan State
5.	Adrian Amos	S	6-1	218	Penn State
6.	Tayo Fabuluje	OL	6-6	353	TCU

Kevin White has every measurable to become a No. 1 receiver in the NFL, although it may take him some time to master the precision routes required in Adam Gase's offense. Brown is almost as big as Brandon Marshall but much faster, much less of a nuisance and much less interested in promoting himself at all costs. Eddie Goldman should be the centerpiece of the 3-4. He's got the size and strength to stuff running plays up the middle and enough agility to have played almost every defensive line position for the Seminoles. Hroniss Grasu could use more bulk strength, but he's a four-year starter from a top program (Oregon) and an excellent technician. Michigan State product Jeremy Langford brings speed and a home-run dimension lacking in the Bears' backfield. Adrian Amos has better cover ability than most safeties but isn't very physical. Tayo Fabuluje is a raw project with tremendous upside. He's a great story who took a circuitous route to the NFL, overcoming massive obstacles along the way.

Jeffery: Tom Lynn; White: Chris Covatta

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
8	Clausen, Jimmy	QB	6-2	210	5	Notre Dame	FA-Car-14	D2-Car-10
6	Cutler, Jay	QB	6-3	220	9	Vanderbilt	T-Den-09	D1-Den-06
12	Fales, David	QB	6-1	228	1	San Jose State	D6a-14	D6a-Chi-14
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
25	Carey, Ka'Deem	RB	5-10	207	1	Arizona	D4a-14	D4a-Chi-14
22	Forté, Matt	RB	6-2	218	7	Tulane	D2-08	D2-Chi-08
32	Perry, Senorise	RB	6-0	187	1	Louisville	FA-14	FA-Chi-14
35	Rodgers, Jacquizz	RB	5-6	196	4	Oregon State	FA-Atl-15	D5-Atl-11
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
84	Annen, Blake	TE	6-4	247	1	Cincinnati	FA-14	FA-Phi-14
11	Bellamy, Joshua	WR	6-0	206	1	Louisville	W-Was-14	FA-KC-12
83	Bennett, Martellus	TE	6-6	265	7	Texas A&M	FA-NYG-13	D2-Dal-08
82	Chiles, John	WR	6-2	210	1	Texas	FA-15	FA-NO-11
17	Jeffery, Alshon	WR	6-3	216	3	South Carolina	D2-12	D2-Chi-12
18	Lawrence, Rashad	WR	6-1	190	1	Northwestern	FA-14	FA-Was-14
80	Mariani, Marc	WR	6-1	187	5	Montana	FA-14	D7-Ten-10
85	Maxwell, Jacob	TE	6-4	240	1	UL Lafayette	FA-14	FA-Det-14
86	Miller, Zach	TE	6-5	236	5	Nebraska-Omaha	FA-13	D6-Jac-09
87	Pascoe, Bear	TE	6-5	265	6	Fresno State	FA-Atl-15	D6-SF-09
19	Royal, Eddie	WR	5-10	185	7	Virginia Tech	FA-SD-15	D2-Den-08
88	Rosario, Dante	TE	6-3	242	8	Oregon	T-Dal-13	D5-Car-07
10	Wilson, Marquess	WR	6-4	184	2	Wash. State	D7-13	D7-Chi-13
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
71	Boffeli, Conor	G	6-4	304	1	Iowa	FA-14	FA-Min-14
60	Boggs, Taylor	G/C	6-3	285	3	Humboldt State	FA-13	FA-NYJ-11
74	Bushrod, Jermon	T	6-5	320	8	Towson	FA-NO-13	D4b-NO-07
62	Ducasse, Vladimir	G	6-5	325	5	Massachusetts	FA-Min-15	D2-NYJ-10
79	Groy, Ryan	G	6-5	320	1	Wisconsin	FA-14	FA-Chi-14
72	Leno Jr., Charles	T	6-3	302	1	Boise State	D7-14	D7-Chi-14
75	Long, Kyle	G	6-6	313	2	Oregon	D1-13	D1-Chi-13
67	Mills, Jordan	T	6-5	316	2	Louisiana Tech	D5-13	D5-Chi-13
64	Montgomery, Will	C	6-3	304	9	Virginia Tech	FA-Den-15	D7-Car-06
70	Ola, Michael	T/G	6-4	312	1	Hampton	W-Mia-14	FA-Mia-14
68	Slauson, Matt	G	6-5	315	6	Nebraska	FA-NYJ-13	D6-NYJ-09
73	Weaver, Jason	T	6-5	305	1	Southern Miss	FA-14	FA-TB-13
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
91	Bass, David	DE	6-4	256	2	Missouri W. St.	W-Oak-13	D7b-Oak-13
98	Dunn, Brandon	DT	6-2	300	1	Louisville	FA-14	FA-Chi-14
95	Ferguson, Ego	DE	6-2	315	1	LSU	D2-14	D2-Chi-14
96	Jenkins, Jarvis	DE	6-4	315	4	Clemson	FA-Was-15	D2-Was-11
71	McDonald, Ray	DE	6-3	290	8	Florida	FA-SF-15	D3b-SF-07
60	Merrell, Jamil	DE	6-4	252	1	Rutgers	FA-14	FA-Chi-14
90	Ratliff, Jeremiah	DT	6-4	303	10	Auburn	FA-13	D7-Dal-05
93	Sutton, Will	DE	6-0	303	1	Arizona State	D3-14	D3-Chi-14
94	Washington, Cornelius	DE	6-4	265	2	Georgia	D6-13	D6-Chi-13
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
49	Acho, Sam	LB	6-3	257	4	Texas	FA-Ari-15	D4-Ari-11
69	Allen, Jared	LB	6-6	270	11	Idaho State	FA-Min-14	D4-KC-04
57	Bostic, Jonathan	LB	6-1	245	2	Florida	D2-13	D2-Chi-13
48	Brown, Jonathan	LB	6-1	230	1	Illinois	FA-14	FA-Ari-14
53	Foster, Mason	LB	6-1	241	4	Washington	FA-TB-15	D3-TB-11
99	Houston, Lamarr	LB	6-3	300	5	Texas	FA-Oak-14	D2-Oak-10
59	Jones, Christian	LB	6-3	240	1	Florida State	FA-14	FA-Chi-14
96	Lattimore, DeDe	LB	6-1	237	1	South Florida	FA-14	FA-Chi-14
50	McClellin, Shea	LB	6-3	245	3	Boise State	D1-12	D1-Chi-12
92	McPhee, Pernell	LB	6-3	280	4	Mississippi State	FA-Bal-15	D5b-Bal-11
97	Young, Willie	LB	6-4	251	5	NC State	FA-Det-14	D7a-Det-10
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
24	Ball, Alan	CB	6-2	197	7	Illinois	FA-Jac-15	D7-Dal-07
44	Bronson, Malcolm	S	5-11	192	1	McNeese State	FA-15	FA-KC-13
23	Fuller, Kyle	CB	5-11	190	1	Virginia Tech	D1-14	D1-Chi-14
30	Hurst, Demontre	CB	5-10	183	1	Oklahoma	FA-13	FA-Chi-13
26	Jennings, Tim	CB	5-8	185	9	Georgia	FA-Ind-10	D2-Ind-06
39	Louis-Jean, Al	CB	6-1	187	1	Boston College	FA-14	FA-Chi-14
27	McManis, Sherrick	CB	6-1	193	5	Northwestern	T-Hou-12	D5-Hou-10
20	Mitchell, Terrance	CB	5-11	195	1	Oregon	FA-14	D7-Dal-14
21	Mundy, Ryan	S	6-1	209	6	West Virginia	FA-NYG-14	D6b-Pit-08
31	Rolle, Antrel	S	6-0	206	10	Miami	FA-NYG-15	D1-Ari-05
45	Vereen, Brock	S	5-11	199	1	Minnesota	D4b-14	D4b-Chi-14
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
43	Gafford, Thomas	LS	6-2	250	7	Houston	FA-KC-15	FA-GB-06
9	Gould, Robbie	K	6-0	185	10	Penn State	FA-Bal-05	FA-NE-05
16	O'Donnell, Patrick	P	6-4	220	1	Miami	D6b-14	D6b-Chi-14

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	13	Kevin White (R)
	10	Marquess Wilson
WR	17	Alshon Jeffery
	11	Josh Bellamy
WR	19	Eddie Royal
	80	Marc Mariani
LT	74	Jermon Bushrod
	72	Charles Leno
LG	68	Matt Slauson
	70	Michael Ola
C	64	Will Montgomery
	55	Hroniss Grasu (R)
RG	75	Kyle Long
	70	Michael Ola
RT	67	Jordan Mills
	73	Tayo Fabuluje (R)
TE	83	Martellus Bennett
	88	Dante Rosario
QB	6	Jay Cutler
	8	Jimmy Clausen
RB	22	Matt Forté
	25	Ka'Deem Carey

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	9	Jarvis Jenkins
	93	Will Sutton
NT	76	Eddie Goldman (R)
	90	Jeremiah Ratliff
DE	71	Ray McDonald
	95	Ego Ferguson
OLB	92	Pernell McPhee
	97	Willie Young
ILB	53	Mason Foster
	50	Shea McClellin
ILB	57	Jonathan Bostic
	49	Sam Acho
OLB	69	Jared Allen
	99	Lamarr Houston
CB	26	Tim Jennings
	24	Alan Ball
CB	23	Kyle Fuller
	30	Demontre Hurst
SS	21	Ryan Mundy
	45	Brock Vereen
FS	31	Antrel Rolle
	38	Adrian Amos (R)

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Robbie Gould
P	16	Pat O'Donnell
KR	80	Marc Mariani
PR	80	Marc Mariani

SCOUTING THE BEARS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP CHICAGO "With high hopes for 2014, the Bears' season quickly dissolved into a 5–11 campaign due to a dysfunctional locker room, no apparent leadership from the head coach or QB position and a defense that made zero strides as a unit. ... New offensive coordinator Adam Gase followed John Fox from Denver, and he has the unenviable task of 'fixing' Jay Cutler. ... Brandon Marshall was traded to the Jets, but Matt Forté, Alshon Jeffery and Martellus Bennett all return, and West Virginia WR Kevin White was chosen at pick No. 7, so there is talent in the building. ... Guard Kyle Long has proven to be a Pro Bowl-level player, but the rest of the offensive line is a work in progress. ... Vic Fangio comes to the Windy City from the 49ers as the defensive coordinator, and he has one of the toughest jobs in football as Chicago tries to transition from the 4-3 to the 3-4. ... They signed a notable free agent at every level of the defense in end/outside linebacker Pernell McPhee (Ravens), linebacker Mason Foster (Buccaneers) and safety Antrel Rolle (Giants). McPhee has never been a full-time player, Foster missed most of 2014 with an Achilles injury and Rolle is on the backside of his career. ... Fox and Co. will try to push the reset button with a roster of mixed pieces and parts, but this looks like the weakest team in the division."

2015 SCHEDULE

Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	2014 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	Green Bay	1:00	12-4	386.1 (6)	346.4 (15)	30.4 (1)	21.8 (13)
2	Sept. 20	Arizona	1:00	11-5	319.8 (24)	368.2 (24)	19.4 (24)	18.7 (5)
3	Sept. 27	at Seattle	4:25	12-4	375.8 (9)	267.1 (1)	24.6 (10)	15.9 (1)
4	Oct. 4	Oakland	1:00	3-13	282.2 (32)	357.6 (21)	15.8 (31)	28.3 (32)
5	Oct. 11	at Kansas City	1:00	9-7	318.8 (25)	330.5 (7)	22.1 (16)	17.6 (3)
6	Oct. 18	at Detroit	1:00	11-5	340.8 (19)	300.9 (2)	20.1 (22)	17.6 (2)
7		BYE						
8	Nov. 1	Minnesota	1:00	7-9	315.5 (27)	344.7 (14)	20.3 (21)	21.4 (11)
9	Nov. 9	at San Diego (Mon.)	8:30	9-7	341.6 (18)	338.3 (9)	21.8 (17)	21.8 (13)
10	Nov. 15	at St. Louis	1:00	6-10	314.7 (28)	351.6 (17)	20.3 (20)	22.1 (16)
11	Nov. 22	Denver	1:00	12-4	402.9 (4)	305.2 (3)	30.1 (2)	22.1 (16)
12	Nov. 26	at Green Bay (Thu.)	8:30	12-4	386.1 (6)	346.4 (15)	30.4 (1)	21.8 (13)
13	Dec. 6	San Francisco	1:00	8-8	327.4 (20)	321.4 (5)	19.1 (25)	21.3 (10)
14	Dec. 13	Washington	1:00	4-12	358.6 (13)	357.0 (20)	18.8 (26)	27.4 (29)
15	Dec. 20	at Minnesota	1:00	7-9	315.5 (27)	344.7 (14)	20.3 (21)	21.4 (11)
16	Dec. 27	at Tampa Bay	1:00	2-14	292.0 (30)	368.9 (25)	17.3 (29)	25.6 (25)
17	Jan. 3	Detroit	1:00	11-5	340.8 (19)	300.9 (2)	20.1 (22)	17.6 (2)

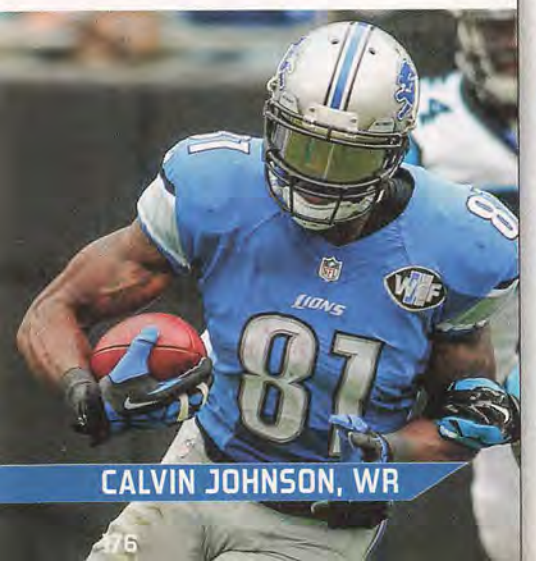
DETROIT LIONS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Jim Caldwell
RECORD WITH TEAM: 11–5
CAREER RECORD: 37–27
ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/TIGHT ENDS: Ron Prince
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Joe Lombardi
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Teryl Austin
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Joe Marciano
QUARTERBACKS: Jim Bob Cooter
RUNNING BACKS: Curtis Modkins
WIDE RECEIVERS: Robert Prince
OFFENSIVE LINE: Jeremiah Washburn
DEFENSIVE LINE: Kris Kocurek, Jim Washburn
LINEBACKERS: Bill Sheridan
SAFETIES: Alan Williams
CORNERS: Tony Oden

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs



CALVIN JOHNSON, WR

2 NFC NORTH FORECAST

Coach Jim Caldwell didn't do exactly what he promised in his first year in Detroit. The new boss was supposed to unlock the Lions' offensive potential, but instead he unleashed arguably the NFL's most ferocious defense. He forged better team chemistry, but couldn't keep his best player from bolting in free agency. He returned the Lions to the playoffs with an 11-win season — the franchise's best record since 1991 — but he also watched as his team blew a fourth-quarter lead and, after the refs picked up a flag, handed a wild-card playoff game to the Dallas Cowboys.

Still, there was something to build on, even with one of the cornerstone pieces of the Lions' massive rebuilding effort — Ndamukong Suh — taking his talents to South Beach. Caldwell's steady, straightforward approach has made a difference with a once-reckless bunch, on and off the field. And there's plenty of playmaking talent returning on both sides of the ball. But the next step is where the Lions — 20 years removed from their last back-to-back playoff berths — have historically stumbled.

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/CHAIRMAN: Martha Firestone Ford
VICE CHAIRMAN: William Clay Ford, Jr.
PRESIDENT: Tom Lewand
EXECUTIVE VP OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS/GENERAL MANAGER: Martin Mayhew
SENIOR PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE: Brian Xanders
STADIUM: Ford Field (65,000)
SURFACE: FieldTurf
WEBSITE: www.detroitlions.com
TICKETS: 313-262-2011
TRAINING CAMP: Detroit Lions Training Facility (Allen Park, Mich.)

OFFENSE The Matthew Stafford 2.0 reboot wasn't an unqualified success. But with the arrival of a quarterback whisperer in Caldwell, new coordinator Joe Lombardi and position coach Jim Bob Cooter, the changes were evident. Stafford, who has started every game the last four seasons, improved his footwork and his completion percentage, cut down on interceptions (from 19 to 12) and still led five game-winning, fourth-quarter drives.

But he clearly struggled with a more conservative mandate in a new offense that borrowed heavily from Lombardi's voluminous Saints playbook. "I thought that he played smart football," Lombardi says, "and sometimes to a fault." This season, Lombardi says he'll encourage Stafford to take more risks, and more shots down the field.

He has to, with one of the best pass-catching tandems in the league in Calvin Johnson and Golden Tate. The Lions were one of five NFL teams with multiple 1,000-yard receivers last season. And after a disappointing rookie season, tight end Eric Ebron — the 10th overall pick in 2014 — is expected to play a much bigger role in the passing game this fall.

But all that's dependent on an overhauled offensive line that allowed 45 sacks — a career-high for Stafford — and a running game that ranked 28th in the NFL a year ago. In the backfield, rookie second-round pick Ameer Abdullah, a hard-working, productive runner at Nebraska, replaces oft-injured Reggie Bush in a tandem with Joique Bell. Theo Riddick, a pass-catching threat, figures to get more snaps as well.

The Lions invested a first-round pick in Duke's Laken Tomlinson, a massive run-blocking guard who draws favorable comparisons to the Lions' Larry Warford. Tomlinson will replace departed vet Rob Sims at left guard, while a healthy Warford returns on the right, flanking second-year pro Travis Swanson, who steps in for Dominic Raiola, the Lions' starting center for the last 14 seasons. Manny Ramirez, a former Lions draft pick acquired during the draft from Denver, is back as veteran insurance on the interior. And Riley Reiff remains the left tackle for now, with LaAdrian Waddle (coming off ACL surgery) and Cornelius Lucas on the right.

DEFENSE Suh is gone, and though the Lions replaced him with five-time Pro Bowl tackle Haloti Ngata in a trade with Baltimore, they'll be hard-pressed to match last season's dominance up front. With Suh commanding double teams on every play, the Lions led the league in run defense. They also recorded 42 sacks, with 34 coming from the defensive line.

But it's not just Suh who left. The Lions also let Nick Fairley, who missed half the season with a knee injury, walk in free agency, along with primary backup C.J. Mosley and end George Johnson. Ziggy Ansah and Jason Jones are the returning starters at end. In Ansah the Lions believe they have a Pro Bowl-caliber right end who'll post double-digit sack totals, provided he can stay healthy. Jones offers inside-out versatility, and rookie Gabe Wright, a high-motor player from Auburn, will get thrown into the tackle rotation immediately with Ngata and Tyrunn Walker, an under-the-radar free-agent pickup from New Orleans.

The one key contributor the Lions did keep last winter, though, was coordinator Teryl Austin, a rising star who interviewed for multiple head-coaching vacancies. His aggressive, blitzing schemes brought the best out of a back seven that used to be the Lions' Achilles heel.

DeAndre Levy emerged as one of the NFL's best outside linebackers, and sure-tackling Stephen Tulloch returns in the middle after missing most of last season with a torn ACL.

Johnson: Tami Chappell; Fan, Stafford: Tom Lynn

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

LOOK OUT BELOW Matthew Stafford's offseason began with a wedding, as the 27-year-old was married to his college sweetheart, Kelly Hall, a former Georgia cheerleader, in April in Atlanta. The newlyweds spent their honeymoon in the South Pacific, and Stafford — whose risk-taking on the field has gotten him in trouble in the past — couldn't help but live dangerously. The couple went skydiving, and also tried out the Nevis Swing, the "world's largest swing" over a 500-foot deep canyon in Queenstown, New Zealand. Asked if it was his idea, he laughed, "Hell, no — those were Kelly's. But I couldn't let her do it and not do it myself." As for the Lions, he added, "I assume I'm good. I didn't tell them I was doing it. I wasn't going to let them tell me no. It's better to ask for forgiveness."

DAREDEVIL Stafford's offseason fun is still no match for DeAndre Levy, whose past globetrotting adventures include bushwhacking through the remotest region of the Amazon, hiking the Inca Trail in Peru and swimming with great white sharks in South Africa. This summer Levy went wing-walking on a biplane just outside of Olympic National Park, and he has the video to prove it. Said team president Tom Lewand: "The official position is, 'Don't fall.'"

HOME COOKING Like every NFL team, the Lions crisscross the country scouting college players every fall. But they found rookie fifth-round pick Michael Burton in their own backyard. The Rutgers fullback caught the eye of general manager Martin Mayhew as he watched the inaugural Quick Lane Bowl at the Lions' Ford Field in December. "He saw a kid that was versatile and had good athleticism and could run routes and catch the ball and block and be a real effective player," offensive coordinator Joe Lombardi says.

GETTING HITCHED Stafford's not the only Lions star hearing wedding bells. Calvin Johnson also is engaged after proposing to his girlfriend, Brittney McNorton, while in Baltimore for the Ed Block Courage Awards in March. And as the front office and coaching staff place a premium on high-character, low-maintenance players, it's probably worth noting that four of their draft picks the last two years were engaged or already married, including Alex Carter this spring.

DOCTOR'S IN Laken Tomlinson's only a rookie, but he already has a plan for life after football. A pre-med student at Duke who graduated with degrees in psychology and evolutionary anthropology, Tomlinson wants to become a neurosurgeon after football. He spent time as an undergrad in the operating room, shadowing former linebacker Carlos Bagley, who is a neurosurgeon at Duke's medical school.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
DE	Phillip Hunt	Indianapolis
DT	Haloti Ngata	Baltimore
DT	Tyrunn Walker	New Orleans
CB	Josh Wilson	Atlanta

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
RB	Reggie Bush	San Francisco
DT	Nick Fairley	St. Louis
DT	C.J. Mosley	Free Agent
C	Dominic Raiola	Free Agent
OL	Garrett Reynolds	St. Louis
G	Rob Sims	Free Agent
DT	Ndamukong Suh	Miami

MATTHEW STAFFORD, QB

2014 RESULTS (11-5)

Sept. 8	N.Y. Giants	W	35-14
Sept. 14	at Carolina	L	7-24
Sept. 21	Green Bay	W	19-7
Sept. 28	at N.Y. Jets	W	24-17
Oct. 5	Buffalo	L	14-17
Oct. 12	at Minnesota	W	17-3
Oct. 19	New Orleans	W	24-23
Oct. 26	at Atlanta	W	22-21
Nov. 9	Miami	W	20-16
Nov. 16	at Arizona	L	6-14
Nov. 23	at New England	L	9-34
Nov. 27	Chicago	W	34-17
Dec. 7	Tampa Bay	W	34-17
Dec. 14	Minnesota	W	16-14
Dec. 21	at Chicago	W	20-14
Dec. 28	at Green Bay	L	20-30
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 4	at Dallas	L	20-24

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Matthew Stafford	602	363	4,257	22	12
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Joique Bell	223	860	3.9	7	
Reggie Bush	76	297	3.9	2	
Matthew Stafford	43	93	2.2	2	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Golden Tate	99	1,331	13.4	4	
Calvin Johnson	71	1,077	15.2	8	
Reggie Bush	40	253	6.3	0	
Joique Bell	34	322	9.5	1	
Theo Riddick	34	316	9.3	4	
Eric Ebron	25	248	9.9	1	

KICKING: Matt Prater, 21-26 FGs, 21-21 PATs, 84 points
TACKLES: DeAndre Levy, 151; Tahir Whitehead, 86
SACKS: Ndamukong Suh, 8.5; Ezekiel Ansah, 7.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Glover Quin, 7; James Ihedigbo, 4

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	340.8	19	10
Rushing	88.9	28	14
Passing	251.9	12	7
Scoring	20.1	22	11
Third Down %	38.6	23	12
Punt Returns	8.9	15	9
Kick Returns	24.5	T9	T3

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	300.9	2	2
Rushing	69.3	1	1
Passing	231.6	13	6
Scoring	17.6	3	2
Interceptions	20	T3	2
Sacks	42	8	3
Turnover Differential	+7	T6	T4

The Lions had big plans for 2014 second-rounder Kyle Van Noy as a hybrid pass rusher, but a sports hernia derailed his season. Expect to see more of that role this fall, with Tahir Whitehead also factoring in.

The safeties — led by All-Pro Glover Quin — led the NFL with 11 interceptions. And though James Ihedigbo was absent at the start of offseason workouts over a contract dispute, the secondary returns largely intact. Rashean Mathis returns as a steady, savvy vet opposite Darius Slay, who enjoyed a breakout sophomore season. Injuries proved costly at nickel back, and both Bill Bentley and Nevin Lawson remain question marks this fall. But the Lions have added depth there, signing Josh Wilson and drafting Alex Carter and Quandre Diggs. And they often went with three-safety looks last year thanks to the versatility of backups Isa Abdul-Quddus and Don Carey.

GOLDEN TATE, WR

SPECIALISTS The Lions' kicking game might've cost them a division title. They missed eight of their first nine field-goal attempts from 40-plus yards last season, and all three kicks in a 17–14 home loss to Buffalo. They shuffled through two kickers — first rookie draft pick Nate Freese, then Alex Henery — before signing free agent Matt Prater coming off an alcohol suspension. Only then did things settle down, which is why re-signing Prater was an offseason priority. Punter Sam Martin was a goat in the playoff loss at Dallas — his fourth-quarter shank set up the Cowboys' winning drive — but he ranked among the league's best in net punting and kickoffs. The coverage units struggled all year, though, and the Lions lacked explosiveness in the return game, so in comes a fiery new coordinator in Joe Marciano. And in Abdullah, the Lions believe they've drafted a player who'll contribute as a kick returner as well, possibly supplanting Jeremy Ross.

FINAL ANALYSIS When the Lions made the playoffs in 2011, they acted like they'd arrived, only to discover they hadn't with a 4–12 record after a disastrous offseason full of risky draft picks and off-field trouble. This time, they're not standing pat, with major changes in the trenches. And in Caldwell, they've got a well-respected coach who GM Martin Mayhew insists "makes a difference." With a brutal early-season schedule, it may not take long to find out if he's right.

LIONS IN THE DRAFT

C

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Laken Tomlinson	OG	6-3	323	Duke
2.	Ameer Abdullah	RB	5-9	205	Nebraska
3.	Alex Carter	CB	6-0	196	Stanford
4.	Gabe Wright	DT	6-3	300	Auburn
5.	Michael Burton	FB	5-11	242	Rutgers
6.	Quandre Diggs	CB	5-9	196	Texas
7.	Corey Robinson	OT	6-7	325	South Carolina

The Lions insist that they don't draft for need, yet they sure targeted specific needs with their first two picks. Laken Tomlinson isn't a flashy first-round choice, but the Lions got value in trading down, and they picked up a mauler — and a quick study — who should start immediately at left guard. Ameer Abdullah is the rookie replacement for Reggie Bush. He'll share carries with Joique Bell and might also provide a special-teams solution as a returner. He had a highly productive career at Nebraska. Alex Carter is a smart corner with good size, and the Lions were determined to get a high-motor defensive tackle who can play right away, trading a future third-rounder to snag Gabe Wright. Michael Burton seemed like a reach, but he's the lone true fullback — a position the Lions use 20-25 snaps a game — on the roster. Quandre Diggs has potential as a nickel back, while Corey Robinson's a huge developmental left tackle.

Tate: Tom Lynn; Tomlinson: Bruce Schwartzman

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
17	Moore, Kellen	QB	6-0	200	3	Boise State	FA-12	FA-Det-12
8	Orlovsky, Dan	QB	6-5	218	10	Connecticut	FA-TB-14	D5-Det-05
9	Stafford, Matthew	QB	6-3	234	6	Georgia	D1a-09	D1a-Det-09
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
35	Bell, Joique	RB	5-11	229	4	Wayne State	FA-11	FA-Buf-10
44	Igwenagu, Emil	FB	6-2	245	2	Massachusetts	W-Phi-14	FA-Phi-12
25	Riddick, Theo	RB	5-9	200	2	Notre Dame	D6b-13	D6b-Det-13
38	Winn, George	RB	5-11	215	1	Cincinnati	FA-14	FA-Hou-13
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
84	Broyles, Ryan	WR	5-10	195	3	Oklahoma	D2-12	D2-Det-12
11	Dawson, Skye	WR	5-9	183	2	TCU	FA-14	FA-Was-13
85	Ebron, Eric	TE	6-4	265	1	North Carolina	D1-14	D1-Det-14
80	Fauria, Joseph	TE	6-7	267	2	UCLA	FA-13	FA-Det-13
10	Fuller, Corey	WR	6-2	200	1	Virginia Tech	D6a-13	D6a-Det-13
81	Johnson, Calvin	WR	6-5	236	8	Georgia Tech	D1-07	D1-Det-07
13	Jones, TJ	WR	6-0	185	1	Notre Dame	D6-14	D6-Det-14
1	Peacock, Andrew	WR	5-10	190	1	Appalachian State	FA-14	FA-Det-14
87	Pettigrew, Brandon	TE	6-5	275	6	Oklahoma State	D1b-09	D1b-Det-09
12	Ross, Jeremy	WR	6-0	215	2	California	FA-13	FA-NE-11
15	Tate, Golden	WR	5-10	202	5	Notre Dame	FA-Sea-14	D2-Sea-10
82	Thompson, Jordan	TE	6-4	257	1	Ohio	FA-14	FA-Det-14
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
65	Boggs, Taylor	C	6-3	285	2	Humboldt State	FA-15	FA-NYJ-11
60	Cave, Braxston	C	6-3	305	1	Notre Dame	FA-15	FA-Cle-13
68	Keyton, Darren	G	6-3	305	1	Central Michigan	FA-14	FA-Det-13
77	Lucas, Cornelius	T	6-9	325	1	Kansas State	FA-14	FA-Det-14
66	Ramirez, Manny	C/G	6-3	320	8	Texas Tech	T-Den-15	D4-Det-07
71	Reiff, Riley	T	6-6	313	3	Iowa	D1-12	D1-Det-12
64	Swanson, Travis	C	6-5	312	1	Arkansas	D3-14	D3-Det-14
66	Waddle, LaAdrian	T	6-6	330	2	Texas Tech	FA-13	FA-Det-13
75	Warford, Larry	G	6-3	330	2	Kentucky	D3-13	D3-Det-13
73	Williams, Michael	T	6-6	304	2	Alabama	D7a-13	D7a-Det-13
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
94	Ansah, Ezekiel	DE	6-5	278	2	BYU	D1-13	D1-Det-13
63	Cudjo, Jermelle	DT	6-2	304	3	Central Oklahoma	FA-15	FA-StL-10
58	Hunt, Phillip	DE	6-1	254	2	Houston	FA-15	FA-Phi-11
91	Jones, Jason	DE	6-5	275	7	Eastern Michigan	FA-Sea-13	D2-Ten-08
92	Ngata, Haloti	DT	6-4	340	9	Oregon	T-Bal-15	D1-Bal-06
62	Philon, Roy	DT	6-3	291	1	Louisville	FA-14	FA-Pit-14
69	Proctor, Xavier	DT	6-6	315	1	N. Carolina Central	FA-13	FA-Det-13
97	Reid, Caraun	DT	6-2	306	1	Princeton	D5b-14	D5b-Det-14
52	Tapp, Darryl	DE	6-1	270	9	Virginia Tech	FA-14	D2-Sea-06
98	Taylor, Devin	DE	6-7	275	2	South Carolina	D4b-13	D4b-Det-13
93	Walker, Tyrunn	DE	6-3	294	3	Tulsa	FA-NO-15	FA-NO-12
79	Webster, Larry	DE	6-6	262	1	Bloomsburg	D4c-14	D4c-Det-14
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
57	Bynes, Josh	LB	6-1	240	3	Auburn	FA-14	FA-Bal-11
41	Harris, Jerrell	LB	6-3	242	1	Alabama	FA-14	FA-Atl-12
54	Levy, DeAndre	LB	6-2	235	6	Wisconsin	D3a-09	D3a-Det-09
50	Lewis, Travis	LB	6-2	236	3	Oklahoma	D7b-12	D7b-Det-12
49	Stanford, Julian	LB	6-1	230	2	Wagner	FA-13	FA-Jac-12
55	Tulloch, Stephen	LB	5-11	245	9	NC State	FA-Ten-11	D4-Ten-06
53	Van Noy, Kyle	LB	6-3	252	1	BYU	D2a-14	D2a-Det-14
59	Whitehead, Tahir	LB	6-2	242	3	Temple	D5a-12	D5a-Det-12
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
42	Abdul-Quddus, Isa	S	6-1	200	4	Fordham	W-NO-14	FA-NO-11
28	Bentley, Bill	CB	5-10	188	3	UL Lafayette	D3-12	D3-Det-12
26	Carey, Don	S	5-11	203	6	Norfolk State	FA-Jac-11	D6-Cle-09
32	Ihedigbo, James	S	6-1	217	8	Massachusetts	FA-Bal-14	FA-NYJ-07
43	Lawson, Nevin	CB	5-9	192	1	Utah State	D4b-14	D4b-Det-14
31	Mathis, Rashean	CB	6-1	195	12	Bethune-Cookman	FA-Jac-13	D2-Jac-03
47	Ness, Nate	S	6-1	190	4	Arizona	FA-14	FA-Cle-09
27	Quin, Glover	S	6-0	206	6	New Mexico	FA-Hou-13	D4a-Hou-09
39	Seisay, Mohammed	CB	6-2	206	1	Nebraska	FA-14	FA-Det-14
23	Slay, Darius	CB	6-0	192	2	Mississippi State	D2-13	D2-Det-13
30	Wilson, Josh	CB	5-9	188	8	Maryland	FA-Atl-15	D2-Sea-07
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
6	Martin, Sam	P	6-1	210	2	Appalachian State	D5b-13	D5b-Det-13
48	Muhlbach, Don	LS	6-4	260	11	Texas A&M	FA-04	FA-Bal-04
5	Prater, Matt	K	5-10	195	8	UCF	FA-14	FA-Det-06

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	81	Calvin Johnson
	10	Corey Fuller
WR	15	Golden Tate
	12	Jeremy Ross
LT	71	Riley Reiff
	73	Michael Williams
LG	72	Laken Tomlinson (R)
	68	Darren Keyton
C	64	Travis Swanson
	63	Manny Ramirez
RG	75	Larry Warford
	68	Darren Keyton
RT	66	LaAdrian Waddle
	77	Cornelius Lucas
TE	85	Eric Ebron
	87	Brandon Pettigrew
QB	9	Matthew Stafford
	8	Dan Orlovsky
FB	46	Michael Burton (R)
	44	Emil Igwenagu
RB	35	Joique Bell
	21	Ameer Abdullah (R)

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	91	Jason Jones
	98	Devin Taylor
DT	92	Haloti Ngata
	90	Gabe Wright (R)
DT	93	Tyrunn Walker
	97	Caraun Reid
DE	94	Ziggy Ansah
	52	Darryl Tapp
OLB	54	DeAndre Levy
	59	Tahir Whitehead
MLB	55	Stephen Tulloch
	49	Julian Stanford
OLB	53	Kyle Van Noy
	57	Josh Bynes
CB	23	Darius Slay
	28	Bill Bentley
CB	31	Rashean Mathis
	33	Alex Carter (R)
SS	32	James Ihedigbo
	26	Don Carey
FS	27	Glover Quin
	42	Isa Abdul-Quddus

SPECIALISTS

K	5	Matt Prater	KR	12	Jeremy Ross
P	6	Sam Martin	PR	12	Jeremy Ross

SCOUTING THE LIONS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP DETROIT "Give Jim Caldwell and his staff credit. They cleaned up the turnover margin and put themselves in position to win 11 games last year. ... They dialed back Matthew Stafford and relied on a defense that finished top three in run, total and scoring defense. ... Ndamukong Suh and his contract situation dominated the headlines for months before they opted not to franchise tag him, and he signed with the Dolphins. Now, the trick will be to see if Haloti Ngata and a host of others can replace Suh in the middle. ... Calvin Johnson continues to be a preeminent talent in the league, but he did miss three games in 2014. ... The Lions are looking for much more from last year's first-round pick, tight end Eric Ebron, to give Stafford another safe option. ... Joique Bell is a dependable back, and Theo Riddick will assume the Reggie Bush role. ... The offensive line was uneven last year, but first-round pick Laken Tomlinson should help right away. ... Defensive end Ziggy Ansah is developing nicely as a complete player, and their linebackers are underrated as a group. ... Overall, this secondary was OK with Suh and that front, but they did add a pair of rookie corners in Stanford's Alex Carter and Texas' Quandre Diggs. ... After shuffling through two placekickers, Matt Prater came onboard and was adequate enough to hold the job."

2015 SCHEDULE

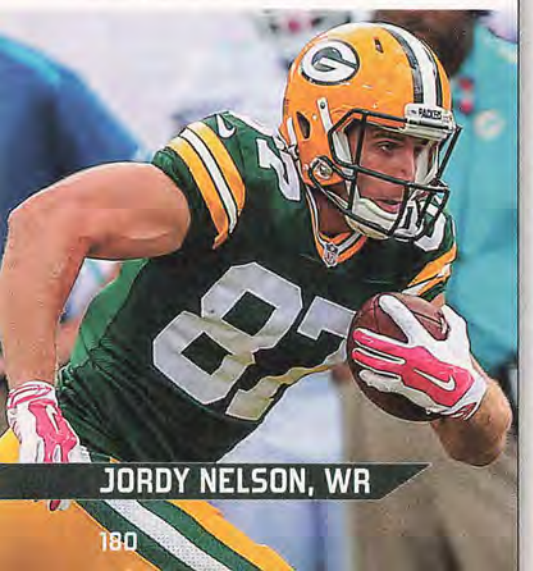
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	2014 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	at San Diego	4:05	9-7	341.6 (18)	338.3 (9)	21.8 (17)	21.8 (13)
2	Sept. 20	at Minnesota	1:00	7-9	315.5 (27)	344.7 (14)	20.3 (21)	21.4 (11)
3	Sept. 27	Denver	8:30	12-4	402.9 (4)	305.2 (3)	30.1 (2)	22.1 (16)
4	Oct. 5	at Seattle (Mon.)	8:30	12-4	375.8 (9)	267.1 (1)	24.6 (10)	15.9 (1)
5	Oct. 11	Arizona	4:05	11-5	319.8 (24)	368.2 (24)	19.4 (24)	18.7 (5)
6	Oct. 18	Chicago	1:00	5-11	327.1 (21)	377.1 (30)	19.9 (23)	27.6 (31)
7	Oct. 25	Minnesota	1:00	7-9	315.5 (27)	344.7 (14)	20.3 (21)	21.4 (11)
8	Nov. 1	vs. Kansas City (London)	9:30 a.m.	9-7	318.8 (25)	330.5 (7)	22.1 (16)	17.6 (3)
9		BYE						
10	Nov. 15	at Green Bay	1:00	12-4	386.1 (6)	346.4 (15)	30.4 (1)	21.8 (13)
11	Nov. 22	Oakland	1:00	3-13	282.2 (32)	357.6 (21)	15.8 (31)	28.3 (32)
12	Nov. 26	Philadelphia (Thu.)	12:30	10-6	396.8 (5)	375.6 (28)	29.6 (3)	25.0 (22)
13	Dec. 3	Green Bay (Thu.)	8:25	12-4	386.1 (6)	346.4 (15)	30.4 (1)	21.8 (13)
14	Dec. 13	at St. Louis	1:00	6-10	314.7 (28)	351.6 (17)	20.3 (20)	22.1 (16)
15	Dec. 21	at New Orleans (Mon.)	8:30	7-9	411.4 (1)	384.0 (31)	25.1 (9)	26.5 (28)
16	Dec. 27	San Francisco	1:00	8-8	327.4 (20)	321.4 (5)	19.1 (25)	21.3 (10)
17	Jan. 3	at Chicago	1:00	5-11	327.1 (21)	377.1 (30)	19.9 (23)	27.6 (31)

GREEN BAY PACKERS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Mike McCarthy
RECORD WITH TEAM: 94–49–1
CAREER RECORD: 94–49–1
ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH/LINEBACKERS: Winston Moss
ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH/OFFENSE: Tom Clements
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Edgar Bennett
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dom Capers
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Ron Zook
QUARTERBACKS/WIDE RECEIVERS: Alex Van Pelt
RUNNING BACKS: Sam Gash
TIGHT ENDS: Jerry Fontenot
OFFENSIVE LINE: James Campen
DEFENSIVE LINE: Mike Trgovac
CORNERBACKS: Joe Whitt, Jr.
SAFETIES: Darren Perry

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



JORDY NELSON, WR

1 NFC NORTH FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Board of Directors
PRESIDENT/CEO: Mark Murphy
EXECUTIVE VP/GENERAL MANAGER/ DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS: Ted Thompson
STADIUM: Lambeau Field (80,735)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.packers.com
TICKETS: 920-569-7501
TRAINING CAMP: St. Norbert College (De Pere, Wisc.)

There's a better chance of Mike McCarthy having a training-camp movie night showing of "Remember the Titans" on a VHS tape than there is of the Green Bay Packers coach pinning his team's motivational hopes on its gut-wrenching loss to the Seattle Seahawks in the NFC Championship Game.

In the wake of their 28–22 overtime loss to the Seahawks — in which the Packers held a 16–0 lead at halftime and had the ball with a 19–7 lead with less than five minutes to play in regulation — McCarthy insists he will not use the loss as the basis for his annual theme, something he presents to the players every year at the start of training camp.

"(Come) hell or high water, we're not going to run out there and come up with some slogan, 'Remember Seattle!'" McCarthy says. "I'm not going to do that."

There's no doubt that the loss, with a berth in Super Bowl XLIX on the line, was heartbreaking — arguably the worst in franchise history, given the stakes and everything that went wrong in a short period of time.

So how do the Packers channel their disappointment into something positive going forward?

"That's the million-dollar question right there," says quarterback Aaron Rodgers, who won his second career NFL MVP award in 2014. "We had a great opportunity right in front of us to do something special. That's what makes it hard."

OFFENSE It all starts with Rodgers. Not only did he throw for 4,381 yards with 38 touchdown passes and just five interceptions (112.2 rating) last season, but he also played through a torn left calf that initially occurred at Tampa Bay on Dec. 21 and plagued him the rest of the year. Back to full health in the prime of his career at age 31, there's no reason to believe one of the league's best quarterbacks won't keep putting up those numbers — especially with the talent around him.

By re-signing wide receiver Randall Cobb (91 receptions, 1,287 yards, 12 touchdowns) and starting right tackle Bryan Bulaga in the spring, the Packers bring back everyone on an offense that led the NFL in scoring last season. Not only does Cobb return, but so do Jordy Nelson, who set the single-season franchise record for receiving yards (1,519) and caught a career-high 98 passes; and third-year running back Eddie Lacy, who has put together back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons during his first two years in the league. Lacy was healthier and more efficient (4.6-yard average) while not altering his bruising, physical style. Backup James Starks provides a more-than-capable No. 2 option in the backfield.

The offense should be even more potent if wide receiver Davante Adams, a second-round pick a year ago, and tight end Richard Rodgers, a third-round pick, make the Year 1 to Year 2 jump that the draft-and-develop Packers demand of their young, up-and-coming players. Adams flashed his ability with big games against New England in the regular season (six receptions, 121 yards) and against Dallas in the playoffs (seven receptions, 117 yards, TD) and has the look of another smart Ted Thompson pick at receiver. Rodgers the tight end, meanwhile, started slowly but caught 12 passes in the final four games (including playoffs), as his connection with Rodgers the quarterback — no relation — grew.

The consensus — from McCarthy to Aaron Rodgers to the offensive linemen themselves — was that the offensive success started with high-caliber play and consistency up front. Of the 18 games the Packers played, the same quintet — left tackle David Bakhtiari, left guard Josh Sitton, rookie center Corey Linsley, right guard T.J. Lang and Bulaga — started 17 of them. Bulaga, who'd suffered back-to-back season-ending injuries the previous two years, missed one game with a knee injury, but by season's end he'd regained the form he had in 2012. Linsley, meanwhile, was a godsend as a rookie fifth-round pick who played every offensive snap, while resident tough guys Lang and Sitton played through leg injuries late in the year. This group will take on all comers and won't cede the title of the NFL's best line to the Dallas Cowboys.

DEFENSE The Packers had the league's worst run defense until, in desperation, McCarthy and defensive coordinator Dom Capers moved four-time Pro Bowl outside linebacker Clay Matthews inside, where he played primarily in the nickel defense. It was a stroke of genius that saved the season and turned the unit around. While Matthews is hoping to spend less time in the middle this year — with the fourth-round selection of Michigan linebacker Jake Ryan and the coaches' high hopes for Carl Bradford after essentially a redshirt year, Matthews could get his wish — having No. 52 inside will still be part of the scheme. He had 11 sacks

Nelson, Rodgers: Tom DiPace; Fan: AP

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

THIS ... IS ... JEOPARDY! He's won a Super Bowl, the Super Bowl MVP and two NFL MVPs, but Aaron Rodgers has now achieved his true dream: He competed on "Celebrity Jeopardy!" during the off-season. The Packers quarterback went up against Kevin O'Leary, one of the stars of ABC's "Shark Tank," and retired astronaut Mark Kelly. Rodgers had long professed a love for the game show, having competed with his brother as a kid watching at home and expressing hope that someday his "Saturday Night Live"-inspired ads with State Farm might include a "Celebrity Jeopardy!" skit — with Will Ferrell as host Alex Trebek, Darrell Hammond as Sean Connery and Norm McDonald as Burt Reynolds. "That would kind of be my dream," Rodgers said in September 2013. "'Celebrity Jeopardy!' skits have always been at the top of my favorite list."

HAPPY FAVRE-GIVING After an estrangement that began with his unretirement and showdown with the front office before a 2008 trade to the Jets and turned even uglier with his two-year stint with the rival Minnesota Vikings, future Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Brett Favre returned to the fold after seven years away. His No. 4 was retired over the summer, and the team will celebrate his great career by unveiling his name and number on Lambeau Field's north end zone façade against the Chicago Bears on Thanksgiving night, as the Packers play their first home game on Turkey Day since 1923. It's only right that they'd celebrate Favre against the Bears, since he went 22–10 against them while in Green Bay.

CARTWHEELING COACH Mike McCarthy didn't exactly do back-flips when All-Pro defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh left the Detroit Lions for the Miami Dolphins in free agency, but the Packers coach was certainly pleased by the news — on two fronts. "I'm trying to teach my 6-year-old to do a cartwheel right now, but not that I'm doing any," McCarthy said. "I thought it was a win-win. It was good to see him leave the division, and it was great to see (Dolphins coach) Joe Philbin (a former Packers assistant) improve his football team."

MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY McCarthy has long admired New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick, and as it turns out, the feeling is mutual. Not only did Belichick have kind words for McCarthy before and after the teams' November meeting last season, but the NFL's longest-tenured active coach also gave McCarthy the highest of compliments at the annual league meetings in response to a question about McCarthy relinquishing play-calling duties. "Mike's one of the best coaches in the league, one of the best coaches I've ever gone up against," Belichick said. "I'm sure whatever he's doing is the right thing. I have a lot of respect for him. I'm sure whatever decisions he's making for the Green Bay Packers are good ones and ones that he thinks are right. I personally wouldn't question anything he does."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
None		

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
QB	Matt Flynn	Free Agent
LB	A.J. Hawk	Cincinnati
CB	Davon House	Jacksonville
LB	Jamari Lattimore	N.Y. Jets
CB	Tramon Williams	Cleveland

AARON RODGERS, QB

2014 RESULTS (12-4)

Sept. 4	at Seattle	L	16-36
Sept. 14	N.Y. Jets	W	31-24
Sept. 21	at Detroit	L	7-19
Sept. 28	at Chicago	W	38-17
Oct. 2	Minnesota	W	42-10
Oct. 12	at Miami	W	27-24
Oct. 19	Carolina	W	38-17
Oct. 26	at New Orleans	L	23-44
Nov. 9	Chicago	W	55-14
Nov. 16	Philadelphia	W	53-20
Nov. 23	at Minnesota	W	24-21
Nov. 30	New England	W	26-21
Dec. 8	Atlanta	W	43-37
Dec. 14	at Buffalo	L	13-21
Dec. 21	at Tampa Bay	W	20-3
Dec. 28	Detroit	W	30-20
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 11	Dallas	W	26-21
Jan. 18	at Seattle (ot)	L	22-28

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Aaron Rodgers	520	341	4,381	38	5
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Eddie Lacy	246	1,139	4.6	9	
James Starks	85	333	3.9	2	
Aaron Rodgers	43	269	6.3	2	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Jordy Nelson	98	1,519	15.5	13	
Randall Cobb	91	1,287	14.1	12	
Eddie Lacy	42	427	10.2	4	
Davante Adams	38	446	11.7	3	
Andrew Quarless	29	323	11.1	3	
Richard Rodgers	20	225	11.3	2	

KICKING: Mason Crosby, 27-33 FGs, 53-55 PATs, 134 points
TACKLES: Morgan Burnett, 130; Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, 92
SACKS: Clay Matthews, 11.0; Julius Peppers, 7.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Tramon Williams, 3; Casey Hayward, 3

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	386.1	6	3
Rushing	119.8	11	6
Passing	266.3	8	5
Scoring	30.4	1	1
Third Down %	47.2	3	3
Punt Returns	11.5	5	4
Kick Returns	19.1	31	15

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	346.4	15	6
Rushing	119.9	23	13
Passing	226.4	10	4
Scoring	21.8	T13	6
Interceptions	18	T7	T3
Sacks	41	T9	T4
Turnover Differential	+14	1	1

and made his fifth Pro Bowl in that hybrid role, so he can be effective splitting his time.

Matthews' move was made possible by the rarest of moves by Thompson — the signing of a big-name veteran. Outside linebacker Julius Peppers had a turn-back-the-clock season, recording seven sacks while intercepting two passes, both of which he returned for touchdowns. At age 35, it's possible he could fall off the table, but he certainly doesn't look like a player at the end of the line.

Up front, defensive tackles B.J. Raji and Letroy Guion came back on one-year deals and should anchor the middle. The two key players, though, are 2013 first-round pick Datone Jones, who has been a disappointment in his first two seasons, and Mike Daniels, who has had a greater impact each season. Youngsters Josh Boyd and Khyri Thornton have done little to this point and must contribute more.

RANDALL COBB, WR

The safety position has gone from a weakness to a strength with an improved Morgan Burnett and 2014 first-round pick Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, but now there are questions at cornerback with the departures of starter Tramon Williams and trusted backup Davon House. Casey Hayward is penciled in as the starter opposite Sam Shields, but nickel back Micah Hyde and draft picks Damarious Randall and Quinten Rollins will have something to say.

SPECIALISTS Veteran kicker Mason Crosby is coming off two excellent seasons after struggling in 2012, while punter Tim Masthay had perhaps his worst season when the bottom fell out during the second half of the year. While Hyde has been excellent as a punt returner, the kickoff return game was abysmal and needs a boost. Perhaps rookie third-round pick Ty Montgomery, the all-time kickoff return leader in Stanford history, is the answer.

FINAL ANALYSIS Four straight division titles are nothing to sneeze at, but the annual postseason disappointments have gotten tougher to bear for the Packers — the hardest being the way they snatched defeat from the jaws of victory in Seattle last January. With the offense intact and the defense still having room for improvement, the Packers deserve to be in the Super Bowl 50 conversation as long as Rodgers is healthy. The biggest question mark is coaching. McCarthy relinquished the play-calling duties during the offseason, so if the offense is still potent and allows McCarthy to pay more attention to the defense and horrendous special teams, it could be a game-changer.

PACKERS IN THE DRAFT

B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Damarious Randall	5-11	196	DB	Arizona State
2.	Quinten Rollins	5-11	195	CB	Miami (Ohio)
3.	Ty Montgomery	6-0	221	WR/KR	Stanford
4.	Jake Ryan	6-2	240	OLB	Michigan
5.	Brett Hundley	6-3	226	QB	UCLA
6.	Aaron Ripkowski	6-1	257	FB	Oklahoma
6.	Christian Ringo	6-1	277	DE	UL Lafayette
6.	Kennard Backman	6-3	258	TE	UAB

While general manager Ted Thompson has long said that he doesn't draft for need, by the end of the three-day draft he'd filled most of the existing holes he had on the roster. Damarious Randall and Quinten Rollins will compete for immediate playing time after the offseason losses of Tramon Williams and Davon House, while Ty Montgomery should help the anemic return game and Jake Ryan could be the new A.J. Hawk — without the expectations of being the No. 5 overall pick like Hawk was. Christian Ringo could crack the defensive line rotation given the underachievers on the roster, while Kennard Backman will have an opportunity at tight end because the team is thin there. The Brett Hundley pick is the exception, since the Packers not only have the two-time NFL MVP as their starter, but also a more-than-competent backup in Scott Tolzien. Perhaps the coaching staff can develop Hundley and deal him for a future draft pick down the road.

Cobb: Tom DiPace; Randall: Peter Brouillet

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
6	Blanchard, Matt	QB	6-3	223	1	Wisc.-Whitewater	FA-15	FA-Chi-12
12	Rodgers, Aaron	QB	6-2	225	10	California	D1-05	D1-GB-05
16	Tolzien, Scott	QB	6-2	213	4	Wisconsin	FA-13	FA-SD-11
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
30	Kuhn, John	FB	6-0	250	9	Shippensburg	W-Pit-07	FA-Pit-05
27	Lacy, Eddie	RB	5-11	230	2	Alabama	D2-13	D2-GB-13
34	Neal, Rajion	RB	5-11	220	1	Tennessee	FA-14	FA-GB-14
44	Starks, James	RB	6-2	218	5	Buffalo	D6-10	D6-GB-10
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
84	Abbrederis, Jared	WR	6-1	195	1	Wisconsin	D5b-14	D5b-GB-14
17	Adams, Davante	WR	6-1	215	1	Fresno State	D2-14	D2-GB-14
18	Cobb, Randall	WR	5-10	192	4	Kentucky	D2-11	D2-GB-11
1	Gillett, Alex	WR	6-1	214	1	Eastern Michigan	FA-13	FA-GB-13
83	Janis, Jeff	WR	6-3	219	1	Saginaw Valley St.	D7-14	D7-GB-14
87	Nelson, Jordy	WR	6-3	217	7	Kansas State	D2a-08	D2a-GB-08
80	Perillo, Justin	TE	6-3	250	1	Maine	FA-14	FA-GB-14
81	Quarless, Andrew	TE	6-4	252	5	Penn State	D5a-10	D5a-GB-10
89	Rodgers, Richard	TE	6-4	257	1	California	D3b-14	D3b-GB-14
19	White, Myles	WR	6-0	190	2	Louisiana Tech	FA-13	FA-GB-13
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
69	Bakhtiari, David	T	6-4	310	2	Colorado	D4a-13	D4a-GB-13
67	Barclay, Don	T/G	6-4	305	3	West Virginia	FA-12	FA-GB-12
75	Bulaga, Bryan	T	6-5	314	5	Iowa	D1-10	D1-GB-10
72	Gerhart, Garth	C	6-1	310	1	Arizona State	FA-13	FA-Cle-12
70	Lang, T.J.	G	6-4	318	6	Eastern Michigan	D4-09	D4-GB-09
63	Linsley, Corey	C	6-3	301	1	Ohio State	D5a-14	D5a-GB-14
71	Sitton, Josh	G	6-3	318	7	UCF	D4b-08	D4b-GB-08
65	Taylor, Lane	G	6-3	324	2	Oklahoma State	FA-13	FA-GB-13
73	Tretter, JC	C/G	6-4	307	2	Cornell	D4b-13	D4b-GB-13
60	Vujnovich, Jeremy	T	6-5	300	1	Louisiana Coll.	FA-14	FA-GB-14
79	Walker, Josh	G	6-5	328	1	Middle Tennessee	FA-14	FA-Ind-14
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
93	Boyd, Josh	DE	6-3	310	2	Mississippi State	D5b-13	D5b-GB-13
76	Daniels, Mike	DE	6-0	305	3	Iowa	D4a-12	D4a-GB-12
99	Gaston, Bruce	DT	6-2	310	1	Purdue	FA-14	FA-Ari-14
98	Guion, Letroy	DT	6-4	315	7	Florida State	FA-Min-14	D5b-Min-08
95	Jones, Datone	DE	6-4	285	2	UCLA	D1-13	D1-GB-13
96	Neal, Mike	DE	6-3	285	5	Purdue	D2-10	D2-GB-10
64	Pennel, Mike	DT	6-4	332	1	Colorado St.-Pueblo	FA-14	FA-GB-14
90	Raji, B.J.	DT	6-2	337	6	Boston College	D1a-09	D1a-GB-09
97	Robinson, Luther	DT	6-3	301	1	Miami	FA-14	FA-GB-14
94	Thornton, Khyri	DE	6-3	304	1	Southern Miss	D3a-14	D3a-GB-14
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
58	Barrington, Sam	LB	6-1	240	2	South Florida	D7c-13	D7c-GB-13
54	Bradford, Carl	LB	6-1	252	1	Arizona State	D4-14	D4-GB-14
91	Elliott, Jayrone	LB	6-3	255	1	Toledo	FA-14	FA-GB-14
45	Francis, Josh	LB	6-0	238	0	West Virginia	FA-15	FA-GB-15
49	Hubbard, Adrian	LB	6-6	257	1	Alabama	FA-14	FA-GB-14
52	Matthews, Clay	LB	6-3	255	6	USC	D1b-09	D1b-GB-09
55	Mulumba, Andy	LB	6-3	260	2	Eastern Michigan	FA-13	FA-GB-13
41	Palmer, Nate	LB	6-2	248	2	Illinois State	D6-13	D6-GB-13
56	Peppers, Julius	LB	6-7	287	13	North Carolina	FA-Chi-14	D1-Car-02
53	Perry, Nick	LB	6-3	265	3	USC	D1-12	D1-GB-12
48	Thomas, Joe	LB	6-1	227	1	South Carolina St.	FA-14	FA-GB-14
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
32	Banjo, Chris	S	5-10	207	2	SMU	FA-13	FA-Jac-13
42	Burnett, Morgan	S	6-1	209	5	Georgia Tech	D3-10	D3-GB-10
21	Clinton-Dix, Ha Ha	S	6-1	208	1	Alabama	D1-14	D1-GB-14
40	Glover-Wright, Tay	CB	6-0	175	1	Utah State	FA-14	FA-Atl-14
39	Goodson, Demetri	CB	5-11	197	1	Baylor	D6-14	D6-GB-14
29	Hayward, Casey	CB	5-11	192	3	Vanderbilt	D2b-12	D2b-GB-12
33	Hyde, Micah	DB	6-0	197	2	Iowa	D5a-13	D5a-GB-13
28	Richardson, Sean	S	6-2	216	3	Vanderbilt	FA-12	FA-GB-12
41	Sebetic, Kyle	DB	6-0	197	1	Dayton	FA-15	FA-NYG-14
37	Shields, Sam	CB	5-11	184	5	Miami	FA-10	FA-GB-10
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
2	Crosby, Mason	K	6-1	207	8	Colorado	D6c-07	D6c-GB-07
61	Goode, Brett	LS	6-1	255	7	Arkansas	FA-08	FA-Jac-08
9	Mandell, Cody	P	6-2	217	1	Alabama	FA-15	FA-Dal-14
8	Masthay, Tim	P	6-1	200	5	Kentucky	FA-10	FA-Ind-09

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	87	Jordy Nelson
	17	Davante Adams
WR	18	Randall Cobb
	84	Jared Abbrederis
LT	69	David Bakhtiari
	67	Don Barclay
LG	71	Josh Sitton
	65	Lane Taylor
C	63	Corey Linsley
	73	JC Tretter
RG	70	T.J. Lang
	73	JC Tretter
RT	75	Bryan Bulaga
	67	Don Barclay
TE	89	Richard Rodgers
	81	Andrew Quarless
QB	12	Aaron Rodgers
	16	Scott Tolzien
FB	30	John Kuhn
	22	Aaron Ripkowski (R)
RB	27	Eddie Lacy
	44	James Starks

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	95	Datone Jones
	93	Josh Boyd
NT	90	B.J. Raji
	98	Letroy Guion
DE	76	Mike Daniels
	94	Khyri Thornton
OLB	52	Clay Matthews
	55	Andy Mulumba
ILB	58	Sam Barrington
	54	Carl Bradford
ILB	47	Jake Ryan (R)
	41	Nate Palmer
OLB	56	Julius Peppers
	53	Nick Perry
CB	37	Sam Shields
	39	Demetri Goodson
CB	29	Casey Hayward
	33	Micah Hyde
SS	42	Morgan Burnett
	28	Sean Richardson
FS	21	Ha Ha Clinton-Dix
	32	Chris Banjo

SPECIALISTS

K	2	Mason Crosby
P	8	Tim Masthay
KR	88	Ty Montgomery (R)
PR	33	Micah Hyde

SCOUTING THE PACKERS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP GREEN BAY "GM Ted Thompson and head coach Mike McCarthy are the longest-tenured duo in the entire NFL, and that continuity pays dividends when it comes to scouting and developing players. ... Offensively, Green Bay is set at all of the skill positions with Aaron Rodgers, Eddie Lacy, Jordy Nelson and Randall Cobb all at the top of their respective games. ... The offensive line is more functional than spectacular, but they found a fifth-round gem in center Corey Linsley last year. ... This is a middle-of-the-league defense, and they will rely on a wave of linemen and the flexibility of Clay Matthews and Julius Peppers to bolster their front. They drafted Arizona State defensive back Damarious Randall in the first round and Miami (Ohio) corner Quinten Rollins in the second. Rollins could be a star. He only played one season of college football. ... Much will be expected of cornerbacks Casey Hayward and Micah Hyde, so the competition for playing time will be intense in training camp. ... McCarthy announced over the winter that he would no longer call plays in order to focus on the entire team, this coming after the Packers gave up seven blocked kicks during the season and melted down in the final minutes of the NFC title game on special teams. Still, as long as Rodgers is healthy, they are the clear frontrunners in the NFC North."

2015 SCHEDULE

					2014 NFL RANKINGS			
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	at Chicago	1:00	5-11	327.1 (21)	377.1 (30)	19.9 (23)	27.6 (31)
2	Sept. 20	Seattle	8:30	12-4	375.8 (9)	267.1 (1)	24.6 (10)	15.9 (1)
3	Sept. 28	Kansas City (Mon.)	8:30	9-7	318.8 (25)	330.5 (7)	22.1 (16)	17.6 (3)
4	Oct. 4	at San Francisco	4:25	8-8	327.4 (20)	321.4 (5)	19.1 (25)	21.3 (10)
5	Oct. 11	St. Louis	1:00	6-10	314.7 (28)	351.6 (17)	20.3 (20)	22.1 (16)
6	Oct. 18	San Diego	4:25	9-7	341.6 (18)	338.3 (9)	21.8 (17)	21.8 (13)
7		BYE						
8	Nov. 1	at Denver	8:30	12-4	402.9 (4)	305.2 (3)	30.1 (2)	22.1 (16)
9	Nov. 8	at Carolina	1:00	7-8-1	346.7 (16)	339.8 (10)	21.2 (19)	23.4 (21)
10	Nov. 15	Detroit	1:00	11-5	340.8 (19)	300.9 (2)	20.1 (22)	17.6 (2)
11	Nov. 22	at Minnesota	1:00	7-9	315.5 (27)	344.7 (14)	20.3 (21)	21.4 (11)
12	Nov. 26	Chicago (Thu.)	8:30	5-11	327.1 (21)	377.1 (30)	19.9 (23)	27.6 (31)
13	Dec. 3	at Detroit (Thu.)	8:25	11-5	340.8 (19)	300.9 (2)	20.1 (22)	17.6 (2)
14	Dec. 13	Dallas	4:25	12-4	383.6 (7)	355.1 (19)	29.2 (5)	22.0 (15)
15	Dec. 20	at Oakland	4:05	3-13	282.2 (32)	357.6 (21)	15.8 (31)	28.3 (32)
16	Dec. 27	at Arizona	4:25	11-5	319.8 (24)	368.2 (24)	19.4 (24)	18.7 (5)
17	Jan. 3	Minnesota	1:00	7-9	315.5 (27)	344.7 (14)	20.3 (21)	21.4 (11)

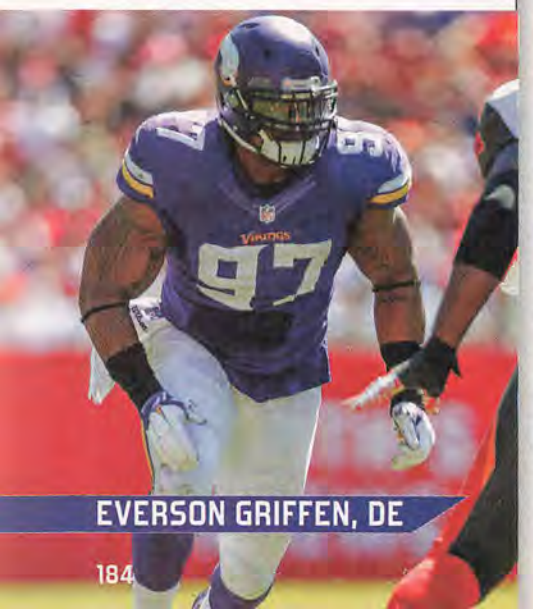
MINNESOTA VIKINGS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Mike Zimmer
RECORD WITH TEAM: 7–9
CAREER RECORD: 7–9
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Norv Turner
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: George Edwards
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Mike Priefer
QUARTERBACKS: Scott Turner
RUNNING BACKS: Kirby Wilson
WIDE RECEIVERS: George Stewart
TIGHT ENDS: Kevin Stefanski
OFFENSIVE LINE: Jeff Davidson
DEFENSIVE LINE: Andre Patterson
LINEBACKERS: Adam Zimmer
DEFENSIVE BACKS: Jerry Gray

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs



EVERSON GRIFFEN, DE

3 NFC NORTH FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/CHAIRMAN: Zygi Wilf
EXECUTIVE VP AND GENERAL MANAGER: Rick Spielman
EXECUTIVE VP OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS: Rob Brzezinski
STADIUM: TCF Bank Stadium (52,525)
SURFACE: FieldTurf
WEBSITE: www.minnesotavikings.com
TICKETS: 612- 338-4537
TRAINING CAMP: Minnesota State University (Mankato, Minn.)

Young Teddy Bridgewater's unusual composure and good old Mike Zimmer's as-expected defensive acumen gave the Vikings a renewed sense of direction despite their 7–9 finish a year ago. Now comes the next step, which the Vikings will take with the full-on power of Adrian Peterson's unbridled return to the NFL.

Bridgewater went 5–4 in his last nine games as a rookie quarterback, and Zimmer orchestrated a turnaround from last in scoring defense to 11th in his first year as a head coach. And they did it with 2012 NFL MVP Peterson missing all but the season opener as he dealt with the law and the league over injuries he inflicted while disciplining his 4-year-old son. So, despite Peterson's reservations about returning to a team and a city he feels didn't support him initially, the Vikings held him to his contract because they believe he can help carry Bridgewater past the verge of being something special.

"I think Teddy's play gives fans hope," Zimmer says. "Hopefully, they also like how we compete. There's no question what Adrian gives us. But we've got a long way to go."

OFFENSE Bridgewater didn't become a starter until Week 3, so he hasn't played with Peterson or enjoyed the steady diet of eight and nine defenders crowding the box. Offensive coordinator Norv Turner, for one, can't wait to get started.

Turner has had decades of success running an offense that melds John Robinson's running game with the old Air Coryell route-numbering system. He's expecting a return to greatness for the 30-year-old Peterson and a significant residual effect on Bridgewater and the play-action, deep-ball attack. That part of the offense struggled last year until Charles Johnson, who was claimed off of Cleveland's practice squad, emerged late as the No. 1 receiver by default.

General manager Rick Spielman executed a low-risk trade, sending his extra fifth-round pick to Miami for moody receiver Mike Wallace. His contract contains no guaranteed money beyond this season, and room for his $9.9 million cap hit was created painlessly with the release of Greg Jennings, whose $11 million cap figure was outlandish for an aging player who could no longer consistently separate from defenders. If Wallace plays like he did in Pittsburgh, when he was the league's fastest deep threat, the Vikings got a steal. If Wallace pouts like he did in Miami, the Vikings can remove the cancer before it infects teammates, particularly receiver Cordarrelle Patterson, who took a big step backward last year and has been given numerous warnings to take his job more seriously.

The offensive line has been an overrated liability. Right guard Brandon Fusco and right tackle Phil Loadholt return from injuries, while the pressure is intense on left tackle Matt Kalil, who blamed last year's awful performances on preseason knee surgery. Left guard is undetermined and a big question mark. Veteran interior backup Joe Berger, who started nine games at right guard last year, is the safety net and an upgrade over Charlie Johnson, who was released. David Yankey is the preferred candidate, but the 2014 fifth-round pick wasn't strong enough to play as a rookie. Center John Sullivan had one of his finest seasons a year ago.

At tight end, Turner still has high hopes for Kyle Rudolph, who has prototypical size and enough speed to be one of the league's tougher mismatches. Unfortunately, injuries limited him to nine games last season and 17 over the past two years.

Meanwhile, the sense of excitement about the offense is rooted in the popular belief that the Vikings finally found a franchise quarterback. Poise, touch and adequate arm strength contributed to Bridgewater posting the third-best completion percentage (64.4) by a rookie in NFL history.

DEFENSE Zimmer's first priority last year was transforming a reactionary Cover-2 scheme into an aggressive unit that attacked from multiple fronts and blitz packages. Initial results were encouraging as the unit ranked seventh in pass defense, but the 25th-ranked run defense disappointed often and needed more time for linemen to adjust to an unfamiliar scheme.

Four defenders have shown All-Pro potential, and all are younger than 28. Outside linebacker Anthony Barr (23) was a Defensive Rookie of the Year candidate before suffering a knee injury. Cornerback Xavier Rhodes (25) was shadowing No. 1 receivers with a swagger during a breakout season under Zimmer, a noted defensive backs whisperer. Safety Harrison Smith (26) was the team's biggest Pro Bowl snub. And end Everson Griffen (27) had a career-high 12 sacks while justifying the team's decision to let Jared Allen walk.

Spielman used the draft to add two more likely starters in cornerback Trae Waynes and Eric Kendricks, who should become the team's first three-down middle linebacker in years.

Griffen, Bridgewater: Steve Jacobson; Cheerleader: AP

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

WELL-KEPT SECRET Linebacker Anthony Barr had no idea the Vikings were interested in drafting his former UCLA teammate, roommate and best friend Eric Kendricks. General manager Rick Spielman shed some light on why Barr was kept in the dark. "He tweets too much," Spielman says. "You know how I am about Twitter."

FAMILY MATTERS Sixth-round draft pick Tyrus Thompson is married with two kids. He's from a military family. Asked if his wife also is from a military family, he said, "Correct. Yes sir. Her mom was a sniper." A mother-in-law sniper sounds, frankly, frightening, eh? "She tells me I should be scared," Thompson says.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Kendricks might be the only player in the league who has had only five birthdays. "Being 5 and being in the pros is definitely an accomplishment of mine," says Kendricks with tongue firmly in cheek as a leap-year baby from Feb. 29, 1992. "I've dreamt about this since I was 3 years old."

CHARACTER FIRST First-round draft pick Trae Waynes knows exactly why the Vikings considered him an A-plus character prospect. Both of his parents are junior high guidance counselors. "(Character) is really important," Waynes says. "My parents were hard on me and my brother. They kept us out of trouble, and they raised us right. I owe all of that to them."

ONE OF THE GUYS When the offseason conditioning program began in April, Teddy Bridgewater was there. "I'm always trying to get better," he says. "I appreciate people saying that I had a good rookie season. But I know that if I play at that same level, we'll be 7–9 again."

LIGHTER AND FASTER? Waynes is expected to take Captain Munnerlyn's starting left cornerback job quickly. Munnerlyn, who would become the No. 3 corner, vowed to put up a fight by regaining some speed he says he lost last year. "I've probably lost 10, 12 pounds, in that range," he says. "I feel good. I changed my diet. I don't eat red meat and all that other stuff like I used to. So I'm excited. I'm on my LeBron James diet. That's what I call it."

MAKE OR BREAK No player was more disappointing last year than receiver Cordarrelle Patterson, who went from breakout candidate to being benched and warned to start taking his job more seriously. Maybe he has. "I feel like this year is going to be the year," he says. "It will make me or break me. This whole offseason, I spent a lot of time just thinking to myself, 'How can I get better?'"

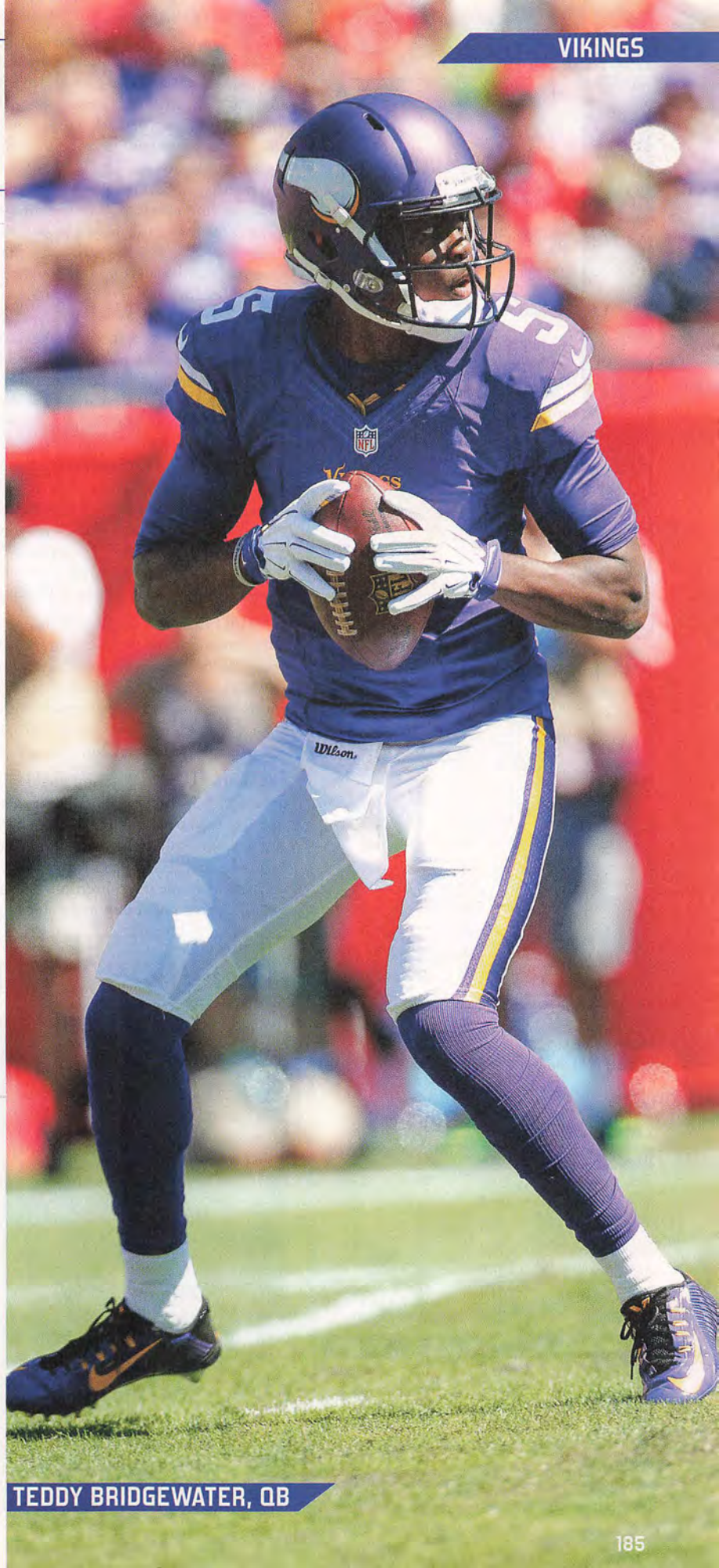
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
TE	Brandon Bostick	Green Bay
RB	DuJuan Harris	Green Bay
QB	Shaun Hill	St. Louis
LB	Casey Matthews	Philadelphia
S	Taylor Mays	Cincinnati
CB	Terence Newman	Cincinnati
WR	Mike Wallace	Miami

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
LB	Jasper Brinkley	Dallas
QB	Matt Cassel	Buffalo
G	Vladimir Ducasse	Chicago
WR	Greg Jennings	Miami
DE	Corey Wootton	Free Agent



TEDDY BRIDGEWATER, QB

2014 RESULTS (7-9)

Sept. 7	at St. Louis	W	34-6
Sept. 14	New England	L	7-30
Sept. 21	at New Orleans	L	9-20
Sept. 28	Atlanta	W	41-28
Oct. 2	at Green Bay	L	10-42
Oct. 12	Detroit	L	3-17
Oct. 19	at Buffalo	L	16-17
Oct. 26	at Tampa Bay (ot)	W	19-13
Nov. 2	Washington	W	29-26
Nov. 16	at Chicago	L	13-21
Nov. 23	Green Bay	L	21-24
Nov. 30	Carolina	W	31-13
Dec. 7	N.Y. Jets (ot)	W	30-24
Dec. 14	at Detroit	L	14-16
Dec. 21	at Miami	L	35-37
Dec. 28	Chicago	W	13-9

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Teddy Bridgewater	402	259	2,919	14	12
Matt Cassel	71	41	425	3	4
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Matt Asiata	164	570	3.5	9	
Jerick McKinnon	113	538	4.8	0	
Teddy Bridgewater	47	209	4.4	1	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Greg Jennings	59	742	12.6	6	
Matt Asiata	44	312	7.1	1	
Jarius Wright	42	588	14.0	2	
Cordarrelle Patterson	33	384	11.6	1	
Charles Johnson	31	475	15.3	2	

KICKING: Blair Walsh, 26-35 FGs, 29-29 PATs, 107 points
TACKLES: Robert Blanton, 106; Chad Greenway, 93
SACKS: Everson Griffen, 12.0; Tom Johnson, 6.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Harrison Smith, 5; Josh Robinson, 3

2014 STATS

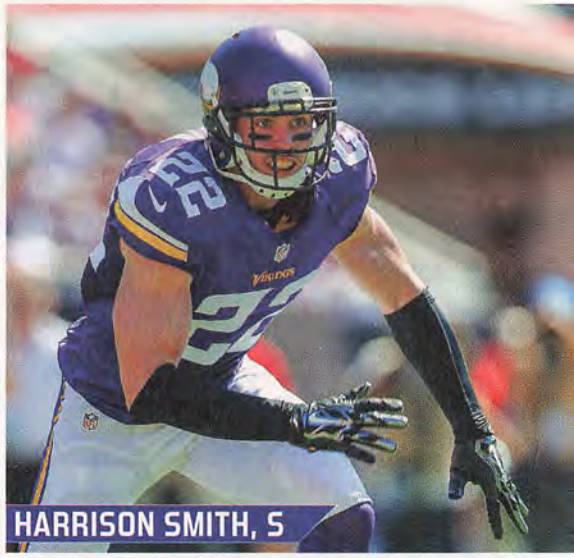
TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	315.5	27	14
Rushing	112.8	14	8
Passing	202.8	28	15
Scoring	20.3	20	9
Third Down %	38.9	21	11
Punt Returns	11.0	T6	5
Kick Returns	21.7	26	13

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	344.7	14	5
Rushing	121.4	25	14
Passing	223.2	7	3
Scoring	21.4	11	5
Interceptions	13	T18	T11
Sacks	41	T9	T4
Turnover Differential	-1	18	9

Backup tackle Tom Johnson posted a career-high 6.5 sacks as part of a deep rotation. Meanwhile, starter Sharrif Floyd had 43 quarterback hurries and will enjoy a breakout season once he stays healthy enough.

At linebacker, Barr is a three-down star with no limitations. Chad Greenway, 32, returns for a 10th season at outside linebacker. The coaches still value his experience and leadership but are likely to give Kendricks his reps in the nickel.

In the secondary, Waynes gives the Vikings a big cover corner, a must against the big receivers in the NFC North. With Waynes on board, Captain Munnerlyn can slide inside exclusively as the nickel back. Meanwhile, at strong safety, Robert Blanton won the job by default last summer but didn't establish himself as a long-term solution. The preferred candidate to win the job this year is Antone Exum Jr., a second-year player who was converted to safety a year ago.


HARRISON SMITH, S

Two former Bengals — cornerback Terence Newman, who will be 37 when the season starts, and safety Taylor Mays — could start or contribute this season for Zimmer, their former defensive coordinator in Cincinnati.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Blair Walsh's accuracy was a career-low 74.3 percent as the Vikings moved outdoors to their temporary new home last season. But don't fret. The 2012 first-team All-Pro remains a viable scoring threat from 50 yards and farther. And the team is moving back indoors in 2016. Punter Jeff Locke enters his third season still needing more consistency and precision on punts inside the 10-yard line. Patterson, who was All-Pro first team as a rookie kick returner in 2013, regressed there as well. Punt returner Marcus Sherels remains a safety blanket, but rookie Stefon Diggs could push Sherels for his roster spot.

FINAL ANALYSIS Peterson could challenge 2,000 yards, while Bridgewater and the defense each hope to take another step. But whether the team can close the gap in its own division will be the big question. After all, the Vikings were 0–4 against Green Bay and Detroit and were the only team in the league not to beat an opponent with a winning record. And their schedule gets tougher with the NFC West and AFC West in the rotation. The Vikings are heading in the right direction and should be a playoff contender. Getting there and winning their first postseason game since the 2009 season could be another matter.

DRAFT *VIKINGS* IN THE DRAFT

B-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Trae Waynes	CB	6-0	186	Mich. State
2.	Eric Kendricks	LB	6-0	230	UCLA
3.	Danielle Hunter	DE	6-5	232	LSU
4.	T.J. Clemmings	OT	6-5	309	Pittsburgh
5.	MyCole Pruitt	TE	6-2	251	Southern Illinois
5.	Stefon Diggs	WR	6-0	195	Maryland
6.	Tyrus Thompson	OT	6-5	324	Oklahoma
6.	B.J. Dubose	DE	6-4	284	Louisville
7.	Austin Shepherd	OT	6-4	315	Alabama
7.	Edmond Robinson	OLB	6-3	245	Newberry

The top two picks are projected starters at defensive positions of need heading into the draft. Trae Waynes, a big corner with 4.31 speed, is expected to start at left corner, allowing the smaller Captain Munnerlyn to play exclusively inside in the nickel. Meanwhile, Eric Kendricks' superior instincts and cover ability will make him the team's first three-down middle linebacker in years. No other immediate starters are expected to surface, but Stefon Diggs has return ability and will challenge veteran Marcus Sherels for the punt return job. Meanwhile, T.J. Clemmings, a highly rated player who fell in the draft because of concerns about a stress fracture in his foot, is healthy and could be the swing tackle who pushes both starters.

Smith: Steve Jacobson; Waynes: Joe Robbins

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
5 Bridgewater, Teddy	QB	6-2	210	1	Louisville	D1b-14	D1b-Min-14
13 Hill, Shaun	QB	6-3	220	13	Maryland	FA-StL-15	FA-Min-02
4 Kafka, Mike	QB	6-3	225	3	Northwestern	FA-TB-15	D4-Phi-10
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
44 Asiata, Matt	RB	6-0	234	3	Utah	FA-12	FA-Min-11
23 Banyard, Joe	RB	5-10	205	2	UTEP	FA-12	FA-Jac-12
85 Ellison, Rhett	FB	6-5	250	3	USC	D4b-12	D4b-Min-12
20 Harris, DuJuan	RB	5-8	203	2	Troy	FA-GB-15	FA-Jac-11
48 Line, Zach	FB	6-1	233	2	SMU	FA-13	FA-Min-13
31 McKinnon, Jerick	RB	5-9	208	1	Georgia Southern	D3b-14	D3b-Min-14
28 Peterson, Adrian	RB	6-1	217	8	Oklahoma	D1-07	D1-Min-07
33 Tate III, Ben	RB	5-10	220	5	Auburn	W-Cle-14	D2-Hou-10
20 Williams, Dominique	RB	5-9	205	1	Wagner	FA-14	FA-Min-14
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
81 Bostick, Brandon	TE	6-3	250	2	Newberry	W-GB-15	FA-GB-12
13 Colter, Kain	WR	6-0	195	1	Northwestern	FA-14	FA-Min-14
86 Ford, Chase	TE	6-6	255	2	Miami	FA-12	FA-Phi-12
11 Foster, Donte	WR	6-1	193	1	Ohio	FA-14	FA-Min-14
12 Johnson, Charles	WR	6-2	217	2	Grand Valley St.	PS-Cle-14	D7-GB-13
84 Patterson, Cordarrelle	WR	6-2	220	2	Tennessee	D1c-13	D1c-Min-13
82 Rudolph, Kyle	TE	6-6	259	4	Notre Dame	D2-11	D2-Min-11
19 Thielen, Adam	WR	6-2	195	1	Minnesota State	FA-13	FA-Min-13
11 Wallace, Mike	WR	6-0	200	6	Ole Miss	T-Mia-15	D3b-Pit-09
17 Wright, Jarius	WR	5-10	180	3	Arkansas	D4a-12	D4a-Min-12
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
69 Aiyegbusi, Babatunde	T	6-9	351	0	None	FA-15	FA-Min-15
61 Berger, Joe	C/G	6-5	305	10	Michigan Tech	FA-11	D6-Car-05
60 Bykowski, Carter	T	6-7	306	1	Iowa State	PS-SF-14	D7-SF-13
63 Fusco, Brandon	G	6-4	306	4	Slippery Rock	D6c-11	D6c-Min-11
79 Harris, Mike	T	6-5	318	3	UCLA	W-SD-14	FA-SD-12
75 Kalil, Matt	T	6-7	308	3	USC	D1a-12	D1a-Min-12
67 Kerin, Zac	C	6-5	305	1	Toledo	FA-14	FA-Min-14
71 Loadholt, Phil	T	6-8	343	6	Oklahoma	D2-09	D2-Min-09
65 Sullivan, John	C	6-4	301	7	Notre Dame	D6a-08	D6a-Min-08
66 Yankey, David	G	6-6	315	1	Stanford	D5-14	D5-Min-14
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
62 Anunoby, Chigbo	DT	6-4	324	1	Morehouse	FA-15	FA-Ind-12
95 Crichton, Scott	DE	6-3	273	1	Oregon State	D3a-14	D3a-Min-14
76 Faciane, Isame	DT	6-4	302	1	FIU	FA-14	FA-Min-14
73 Floyd, Sharrif	DT	6-3	305	2	Florida	D1a-13	D1a-Min-13
97 Griffen, Everson	DE	6-3	273	5	USC	D4-10	D4-Min-10
92 Johnson, Tom	DT	6-3	288	4	Southern Miss	FA-NO-14	FA-Ind-06
98 Joseph, Linval	DT	6-4	323	5	East Carolina	FA-NYG-14	D2-NYG-10
78 Mackey, Leon	DE	6-5	260	0	Texas Tech	FA-15	FA-Min-15
91 Rayford, Caesar	DE	6-7	285	1	Washington	FA-15	FA-Ind-13
96 Robison, Brian	DE	6-3	259	8	Texas	D4-07	D4-Min-07
93 Stephen, Shamar	DT	6-5	310	1	Connecticut	D7a-14	D7a-Min-14
94 Trattou, Justin	DE	6-4	250	3	Florida	W-NYG-13	FA-NYG-11
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
55 Barr, Anthony	LB	6-5	255	1	UCLA	D1a-14	D1a-Min-14
57 Cole, Audie	LB	6-5	239	3	NC State	D7a-12	D7a-Min-12
52 Greenway, Chad	LB	6-3	237	9	Iowa	D1-06	D1-Min-06
50 Hodges, Gerald	LB	6-2	243	2	Penn State	D4-13	D4-Min-13
51 Kaddu, Josh	LB	6-3	245	3	Oregon	FA-14	D5-Mia-12
59 Matthews, Casey	LB	6-1	245	4	Oregon	FA-Phi-15	D4a-Phi-11
56 Mauti, Michael	LB	6-2	243	2	Penn State	D7a-13	D7a-Min-13
45 Peters, Brian	LB	6-4	220	0	Northwestern	FA-15	FA-Min-15
58 Watts, Brandon	LB	6-2	231	1	Georgia Tech	D7b-14	D7b-Min-14
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
36 Blanton, Robert	S	6-1	200	3	Notre Dame	D5-12	D5-Min-12
39 Carter, Jalil	CB	6-1	205	1	Akron	FA-15	FA-StL-11
32 Exum Jr., Antone	S	6-0	219	1	Virginia Tech	D6a-14	D6a-Min-14
42 Mays, Taylor	S	6-3	225	5	USC	FA-Cin-15	D2-SF-10
24 Munnerlyn, Captain	CB	5-9	195	6	South Carolina	FA-Car-14	D7-Car-09
30 Newman, Terence	CB	5-10	197	12	Kansas State	FA-Cin-15	D1-Dal-03
27 Prater, Shaun	CB	5-10	190	3	Iowa	W-Phi-13	D5-Cin-12
39 Price, Jabari	CB	5-11	200	1	North Carolina	D7c-14	D7c-Min-14
29 Rhodes, Xavier	CB	6-1	210	2	Florida State	D1b-13	D1b-Min-13
21 Robinson, Josh	CB	5-10	199	3	UCF	D3-12	D3-Min-12
34 Sendejo, Andrew	S	6-1	200	4	Rice	FA-11	FA-Dal-10
35 Sherels, Marcus	CB	5-10	175	4	Minnesota	FA-10	FA-Min-10
22 Smith, Harrison	S	6-2	214	3	Notre Dame	D1b-12	D1b-Min-12
37 Van Dyke, DeMarcus	CB	6-1	187	3	Miami	FA-15	D3-Oak-11
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
18 Locke, Jeff	P	6-0	203	2	UCLA	D5-13	D5-Min-13
46 Loeffler, Cullen	LS	6-5	241	11	Texas	FA-04	FA-Min-04
47 McDermott, Kevin	LS	6-4	234	2	UCLA	FA-Bal-15	FA-SF-13
3 Walsh, Blair	K	5-10	192	3	Georgia	D6-12	D6-Min-12

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	11	Mike Wallace
	12	Charles Johnson
WR	84	Cordarrelle Patterson
	17	Jarius Wright
LT	75	Matt Kalil
	60	Carter Bykowski
LG	61	Joe Berger
	66	David Yankey
C	65	John Sullivan
	61	Joe Berger
RG	63	Brandon Fusco
	66	David Yankey
RT	71	Phil Loadholt
	79	Mike Harris
TE	82	Kyle Rudolph
	86	Chase Ford
QB	5	Teddy Bridgewater
	13	Shaun Hill
FB	48	Zach Line
	85	Rhett Ellison
RB	28	Adrian Peterson
	31	Jerick McKinnon

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	97	Everson Griffen
	95	Scott Crichton
DT	73	Sharrif Floyd
	92	Tom Johnson
NT	98	Linval Joseph
	93	Shamar Stephen
DE	96	Brian Robison
	94	Justin Trattou
SLB	55	Anthony Barr
	50	Gerald Hodges
MLB	54	Eric Kendricks (R)
	57	Audie Cole
WLB	52	Chad Greenway
	58	Brandon Watts
CB	29	Xavier Rhodes
	21	Josh Robinson
CB	26	Trae Waynes (R)
	24	Captain Munnerlyn
SS	32	Antone Exum Jr.
	36	Robert Blanton
FS	22	Harrison Smith
	34	Andrew Sendejo

SPECIALISTS

K	3	Blair Walsh
P	18	Jeff Locke
KR	84	Cordarrelle Patterson
PR	35	Marcus Sherels

SCOUTING THE VIKINGS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP MINNESOTA "Mike Zimmer put his imprint on this team with a no-nonsense, tough-guy approach that resulted in a very competitive 7–9 record despite not having Adrian Peterson for the final 15 games. ... There are three major coaching chores for the Vikings on offense in 2015: The continued development of Teddy Bridgewater, getting tackle Matt Kalil back to Pro Bowl form and tapping into the raw talent of underachieving wide receiver Cordarrelle Patterson. ... Bridgewater looks like the future at the position after starting 12 games while leading the team to four come-from-behind victories. ... At the end of the day, Peterson was not traded, so the anticipation is that he will be in a purple uniform by September. ... They traded for Mike Wallace from the Dolphins to give them a vertical threat, while figuring out what happens with Patterson. ... Tight end Kyle Rudolph is solid, and the rest of the offensive line is intact, so there is a degree of continuity around Bridgewater. ... Defensive end Everson Griffen and outside linebacker Anthony Barr are both playmakers, and the Vikings added an immediate starter in round two with the selection of UCLA linebacker Eric Kendricks. ... The reality is that there is a blue-chip talent in virtually every position group on this roster."

2015 SCHEDULE

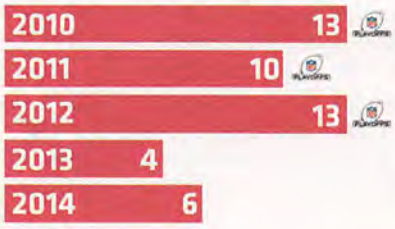
					2014 NFL RANKINGS			
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 14	at San Francisco (Mon.)	10:20	8-8	327.4 (20)	321.4 (5)	19.1 (25)	21.3 (10)
2	Sept. 20	Detroit	1:00	11-5	340.8 (19)	300.9 (2)	20.1 (22)	17.6 (2)
3	Sept. 27	San Diego	1:00	9-7	341.6 (18)	338.3 (9)	21.8 (17)	21.8 (13)
4	Oct. 4	at Denver	4:25	12-4	402.9 (4)	305.2 (3)	30.1 (2)	22.1 (16)
5		BYE						
6	Oct. 18	Kansas City	1:00	9-7	318.8 (25)	330.5 (7)	22.1 (16)	17.6 (3)
7	Oct. 25	at Detroit	1:00	11-5	340.8 (19)	300.9 (2)	20.1 (22)	17.6 (2)
8	Nov. 1	at Chicago	1:00	5-11	327.1 (21)	377.1 (30)	19.9 (23)	27.6 (31)
9	Nov. 8	St. Louis	1:00	6-10	314.7 (28)	351.6 (17)	20.3 (20)	22.1 (16)
10	Nov. 15	at Oakland	4:05	3-13	282.2 (32)	357.6 (21)	15.8 (31)	28.3 (32)
11	Nov. 22	Green Bay	1:00	12-4	386.1 (6)	346.4 (15)	30.4 (1)	21.8 (13)
12	Nov. 29	at Atlanta	1:00	6-10	378.2 (8)	398.3 (32)	23.8 (12)	26.1 (27)
13	Dec. 6	Seattle	1:00	12-4	375.8 (9)	267.1 (1)	24.6 (10)	15.9 (1)
14	Dec. 10	at Arizona (Thu.)	8:25	11-5	319.8 (24)	368.2 (24)	19.4 (24)	18.7 (5)
15	Dec. 20	Chicago	1:00	5-11	327.1 (21)	377.1 (30)	19.9 (23)	27.6 (31)
16	Dec. 27	N.Y. Giants	1:00	6-10	367.2 (10)	375.8 (29)	23.8 (13)	25.0 (22)
17	Jan. 3	at Green Bay	1:00	12-4	386.1 (6)	346.4 (15)	30.4 (1)	21.8 (13)

ATLANTA FALCONS

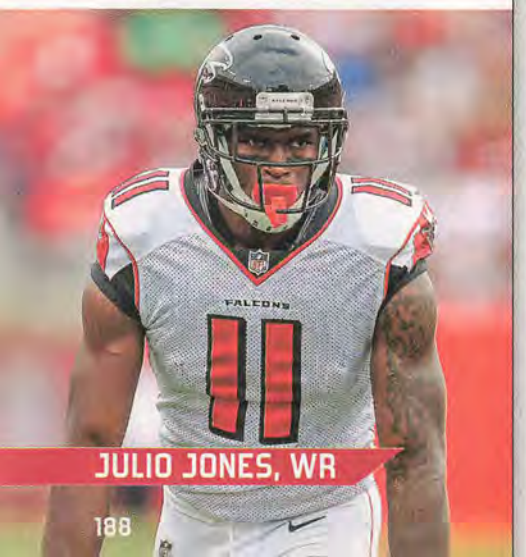
THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Dan Quinn
RECORD WITH TEAM: 0–0
CAREER RECORD: 0–0
ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/DEFENSIVE PASSING GAME COORDINATOR: Raheem Morris
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Kyle Shanahan
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Richard Smith
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Keith Armstrong
QUARTERBACKS: Matt LaFleur
RUNNING BACKS: Bobby Turner
TIGHT ENDS: Wade Harman
OFFENSIVE LINE: Chris Morgan
DEFENSIVE LINE: Bryan Cox
LINEBACKERS: Jeff Ulbrich
DEFENSIVE BACKS/SENIOR DEFENSIVE ASSISTANT: Marquand Manuel

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



Playoffs



JULIO JONES, WR

3 NFC SOUTH FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/CHAIRMAN: Arthur Blank
PRESIDENT/CEO: Rich McKay
GENERAL MANAGER: Thomas Dimitroff
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER: Scott Pioli
STADIUM: Georgia Dome (71,228)
SURFACE: FieldTurf
WEBSITE: www.atlantafalcons.com
TICKETS: 404-223-8444
TRAINING CAMP: Atlanta Falcons Training Facility (Flowery Branch, Ga.)

The bleeding never stopped. The Falcons blew a 17-point lead at home in the 2012 NFC Championship Game and, two full seasons later, still haven't recovered. An offensive line thin on talent suffered a collection of season-ending injuries in two consecutive offseasons. Julio Jones, easily the most talented player on the roster, was lost in 2013 to a broken foot. Tony Gonzalez, the greatest tight end in NFL history, retired after a frustrating 4–12 year that was supposed to be a last run at the Super Bowl. A defense built on bending instead of breaking shattered beyond repair, and a hasty personnel change did nothing to fix both lines in 2014.

From 2008-12, the Atlanta Falcons under Mike Smith and GM Thomas Dimitroff were a blueprint for stability and success. Matt Ryan became a franchise quarterback, and the organization posted back-to-back winning seasons for the first time in history. But since that so-close title run, the Falcons have imploded, winning 10 games in two years. Smith became the fall guy, due in large part to the defensive-minded head coach's stubborn control of a league-worst unit. Accordingly, owner Arthur Blank has now turned to Seattle defensive coordinator Dan Quinn, architect of back-to-back Super Bowl defenses under Pete Carroll.

Entering 2013, the franchise seemed a tweak or two away from its first Super Bowl title. Entering 2014, conventional wisdom wrote off a stunning collapse as an extreme bout with Murphy's Law. There's no clear prognosis now: Atlanta has to rebuild its defense almost from scratch while finding a way to keep Ryan alive and productive.

The cautionary tale of almost any NFL failure is that no matter what, you can't win without an elite quarterback throwing to consistent playmakers. The Falcons have one of the most consistent quarterbacks in the league and perhaps its best wide receiver. The problem — and the cold truth for Falcons fans — is that after that, there's not much else.

OFFENSE Ryan, Jones and Roddy White: Even in the worst stretch of the Smith era, that battery remained reliable (when healthy). What 2014 exposed is that just about everything else has imploded around the Pro Bowl trio since the 2012 playoff run.

Expect an entirely new running game under new offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan. His 2014 Browns were fourth in the league in rushing touchdowns, while the Falcons' 1,498 rushing yards were the 22nd-rated attack in Football Outsiders' offensive efficiency metrics. Atlanta will shift to a zone-blocking scheme, emphasizing fast and mobile linemen breaking open holes for an overhauled trio of backs.

Porous line play and Steven Jackson's career twilight hindered play-calling. Now rookie Tevin Coleman (2,036 yards and 15 TDs last year at Indiana) and Devonta Freeman will be expected to read blocks and break upfield. Still buried on the depth chart is the dangerous Antone Smith (10.3 yards per carry in two seasons as a backup). Smith has broken TD runs of 48 and 50 yards and could explode under Shanahan.

If Atlanta can run the ball with more efficiency and create balance, Ryan won't have to force throws and risk turnovers. It's hard to criticize Ryan's increase in interceptions post-2012, as he's been sacked 75 times in two years of 1,279 pass attempts. The unbalanced pass/run ratio has damaged the perception of Ryan as an elite quarterback.

Shanahan's a creative play-caller, but simply bumping the run game up to mediocre will free Jones and White more than any schematic. Free agent Leonard Hankerson and rookie Justin Hardy will complement one of the best receiving tandems in the league. While veteran Jacob Tamme isn't Gonzalez, he's more reliable as a weapon than blocking tight end Levine Toilolo.

DEFENSE Quinn has carte blanche with an awful defense — 27th in scoring, 21st in rushing, and last in passing and third-down conversions — so any experimentation is welcome.

The end of the Smith era brought rumblings of discord between the staff and front office, with the beleaguered pass rush at the heart of the matter. Smith and former DC Mike Nolan wanted to stop the run to force the pass, while Dimitroff longed for a prototypical pass rusher. Quinn's influence over the 2015 draft was inarguable, and Vic Beasley will almost certainly start at LEO, the end/linebacker weak-side rush position Seattle uses to great effect.

If Shanahan merely has to adjust and balance, Quinn and new defensive coordinator Raheem Morris have to perform a complete overhaul, and must do so with misfit parts. Smith and Nolan flirted with a transition to 3-4 looks in 2014, adding big bodies such as Paul Soliai and Ra'Shede Hageman to a rickety, aging 4-3 depth chart. The hybrid look was a total bust, and teams converted an astounding 46.8 percent of third downs.

Jones, Ryan: Tom DiPace; Cheerleader: AP/John Bazemore

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

LIFELONG FAN Vic Beasley was elated to get the call from Atlanta in the first round of the 2015 NFL Draft: He grew up in Adairsville, Ga., cheering for the Falcons his entire life. Per Clemson's sports information department, Beasley is the first first-rounder to be drafted by a team less than 50 miles from his home since 1960. "I was hoping to still be there at (No.) 8, and I planned ahead," Beasley said during a press event. His plan ahead — a red-and-black-themed draft-day outfit.

ATLANTA'S FIRST FAMILY Beasley isn't alone in his Falcons fandom, as Clemson teammate and fellow draft pick Grady Jarrett is a Georgia native and the son of Falcons legend "The Hammer" Jessie Tuggle, a Falcons Ring of Honor member. Jarrett fell to the fifth round mainly because of his lack of size, but his father was famous for going from an undrafted free agent from Valdosta State to having his No. 58 jersey retired after a 14-year career that included five Pro Bowls.

ARMY STRONG Atlanta finished the 2015 draft without a second fullback on the roster to challenge Patrick DiMarco entering fall camp, so the Falcons picked up former Titans fullback Collin Mooney, a West Point graduate who signed with Tennessee following the fulfillment of his military obligations in 2012. If Mooney makes the 53-man roster, he'll be the first Army player on the Falcons roster in at least three decades. Mooney holds the Army record for rushing yards in a single season at 1,339 yards — a mark he holds by one yard following his final carry against Navy.

NOISE POLLUTION The Falcons organization paid a hefty fine — $350,000 — and lost a fifth-round pick in the 2016 draft after the NFL ruled that artificial noise was used during games at the Georgia Dome in 2013 and 2014. While some league insiders predicted a much harsher penalty, the loss of a fifth-rounder will affect an organization that frequently deals late round picks in the middle of the draft. For example, Atlanta traded its fifth- and sixth-round picks to move up for Jarrett in 2015.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
CB	Phillip Adams	Seattle
DE	Adrian Clayborn	Tampa Bay
LB	Justin Durant	Dallas
WR	Leonard Hankerson	Washington
OL	Mike Person	St. Louis
LB	Brooks Reed	Houston
DE	O'Brien Schofield	Seattle
OL	Jared Smith	Seattle
TE	Jacob Tamme	Denver

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
OL	Justin Blalock	Free Agent
OL	Gabe Carimi	Free Agent
WR	Harry Douglas	Tennessee
RB	Steven Jackson	Free Agent
DE	Jonathan Massaquoi	Tennessee
RB	Jacquizz Rodgers	Chicago
DE	Osi Umenyiora	Free Agent
LB	Sean Weatherspoon	Arizona

MATT RYAN, QB

2014 RESULTS (6-10)

Sept. 7	New Orleans (ot)	W	37-34
Sept. 14	at Cincinnati	L	10-24
Sept. 18	Tampa Bay	W	56-14
Sept. 28	at Minnesota	L	28-41
Oct. 5	at N.Y. Giants	L	20-30
Oct. 12	Chicago	L	13-27
Oct. 19	at Baltimore	L	7-29
Oct. 26	Detroit	L	21-22
Nov. 9	at Tampa Bay	W	27-17
Nov. 16	at Carolina	W	19-17
Nov. 23	Cleveland	L	24-26
Nov. 30	Arizona	W	29-18
Dec. 8	at Green Bay	L	37-43
Dec. 14	Pittsburgh	L	20-27
Dec. 21	at New Orleans	W	30-14
Dec. 28	Carolina	L	3-34

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Matt Ryan	628	415	4,694	28	14
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Steven Jackson	190	707	3.7	6	
Devonta Freeman	65	248	3.8	1	
Jacquizz Rodgers	58	217	3.7	1	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Julio Jones	104	1,593	15.3	6	
Roddy White	80	921	11.5	7	
Harry Douglas	51	556	10.9	2	
Devin Hester	38	504	13.3	2	
Levine Toilolo	31	238	7.7	2	
Devonta Freeman	30	225	7.5	1	

KICKING: Matt Bryant, 29-32 FGs, 40-40 PATs, 127 points
TACKLES: Paul Worrilow, 142; Kemal Ishmael, 97
SACKS: Kroy Biermann, 4.5; Osi Umenyiora, 2.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Kemal Ishmael, 4; Two players tied with 3

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	378.2	8	5
Rushing	93.6	24	12
Passing	284.6	5	2
Scoring	23.8	12	6
Third Down %	44.3	7	4
Punt Returns	13.3	1	1
Kick Returns	23.5	T14	T7

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	398.2	32	16
Rushing	118.4	21	12
Passing	279.9	32	16
Scoring	26.1	27	13
Interceptions	16	T12	7
Sacks	22	T30	16
Turnover Differential	+5	T11	7

Aside from Beasley, it's anyone's guess who makes the Opening Day front seven and how they'll position exactly. Hageman and former undrafted rookie middle linebacker Paul Worrilow might be the only returning names, as Quinn and Dimitroff pulled in a host of former Seahawks and other free agents who are a better fit for the new style. Former Tampa Bay defensive end Adrian Clayborn will likely start opposite Beasley, and former Cowboy Justin Durant is the favorite to replace the departed Sean Weatherspoon at weak-side linebacker.

Desmond Trufant isn't going anywhere, though: The third-year corner has quietly developed into one of the best in the league at his position. His size makes him a "Quinn guy," and the Falcons drafted Jalen Collins, another long, aggressive corner to groom as his counterpart. Free safety is a question mark, but veteran William Moore is expected to have recovered from multiple injuries and should reclaim the job at strong safety.

DESMOND TRUFANT, CB

A dramatic overhaul in philosophy and execution is needed. There is literally nowhere to go but up, and that's the best news possible.

SPECIALISTS Devin Hester might be the best free-agent signing of Dimitroff's career. The veteran was supposed to help bolster the Falcons' return game and instead lit the entire special teams and receiving corps on fire. Hester led the league in total kickoff return yardage (1,128, the only player to go over 1,000 last season thanks to an awful Falcons scoring defense) and averaged 13.3 yards per catch as a viable rotation receiver. Until Jones' deal is extended, Matt Bryant's new contract extension is easily the most important bit of front office business in 2015. Bryant hit 29-of-32 field goals and was perfect inside of 50 yards as he's remained one of the league's elite clutch kickers. Punter Matt Bosher's career 41.3-yard net average has made him one of the most reliable at his position.

FINAL ANALYSIS It's a distant memory now, but the Falcons were a possession away from locking up a Super Bowl trip two seasons ago. While it's hard to classify any team with elite quarterback play as a true rebuilding effort, the Falcons' long and horrific decline on defense might qualify them regardless of Ryan. Quinn has the bones of a terrific offense waiting on a defensive miracle, which is what he'll have provided if Atlanta makes the playoffs in 2015.

FALCONS IN THE DRAFT

B+

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Vic Beasley	DE/LB	6-3	235	Clemson
2.	Jalen Collins	CB	6-1	203	LSU
3.	Tevin Coleman	RB	6-1	210	Indiana
4.	Justin Hardy	WR	5-10	192	East Carolina
5.	Grady Jarrett	NT	6-1	290	Clemson
7.	Jake Rodgers	OT	6-6	320	Eastern Washington
7.	Akeem King	DB	6-3	212	San Jose State

Multiple analysts agreed that the Falcons succeeded at finding value for need positions through each round. The much-maligned pass rush instantly improves with the addition of Vic Beasley, a likely Week 1 starter at Dan Quinn's LEO pass-rush position. Overshadowed in the Big Ten, running back Tevin Coleman was a one-man offense at Indiana and will challenge Devonta Freeman to become the starting running back. East Carolina's Justin Hardy set the FBS career record for receptions and will replace Harry Douglas as a slot and possession receiver. The undersized Grady Jarrett was considered a steal in the fifth round. He's an aggressive, big bodied defensive tackle who can play the one-gap and could eventually replace Justin Babineaux. Jalen Collins will enter the league already admitted to the NFL's substance-abuse program after a positive marijuana test. Drafting a player with a character question was a rare move by this organization, likely because Quinn values tall, long corners.

Trufant: Tom DiPace; Beasley: David Tulis

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
13	Yates, T.J.	QB	6-4	217	4	North Carolina	T-Hou-14	D5-Hou-11
2	Ryan, Matt	QB	6-4	217	7	Boston College	D1a-08	D1a-Atl-08
12	Renfree, Sean	QB	6-5	225	2	Duke	D7c-13	D7c-Atl-13
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
42	DiMarco, Patrick	FB	6-1	234	3	South Carolina	FA-13	FA-SD-11
24	Freeman, Devonta	RB	5-8	206	1	Florida State	D4a-14	D4a-Atl-14
	Mooney, Collin	FB	5-10	238	2	Army	FA-15	FA-Ten-12
35	Smith, Antone	RB	5-9	192	5	Florida State	FA-09	FA-Det-09
34	Smith, Jerome	RB	6-0	226	1	Syracuse	FA-14	FA-Atl-14
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
85	Hankerson, Leonard	WR	6-2	211	4	Miami	FA-Was-15	D3-Was-11
17	Hester, Devin	WR	5-11	190	9	Miami	FA-14	D2-Chi-06
11	Jones, Julio	WR	6-3	220	4	Alabama	D1-11	D1-Atl-11
18	Martino, Freddie	WR	6-0	195	1	North Greenville	FA-14	FA-Atl-14
81	Moeaki, Tony	TE	6-3	245	5	Iowa	FA-Sea-15	D3-KC-10
89	Reedy, Bernard	WR	5-9	175	1	Toledo	FA-14	FA-Atl-14
83	Tamme, Jacob	TE	6-3	230	7	Kentucky	FA-Den-15	D4-Ind-08
80	Toilolo, Levine	TE	6-8	265	2	Stanford	D4b-13	D4b-Atl-13
14	Weems, Eric	WR	5-9	195	8	Bethune-Cookman	FA-14	FA-Atl-07
84	White, Roddy	WR	6-0	211	10	UAB	D1-05	D1-Atl-05
15	Williams, Nick	WR	5-10	184	1	Connecticut	FA-15	FA-Was-13
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
75	Asamoah, Jon	G	6-4	305	5	Illinois	FA-14	D3-KC-10
72	Baker, Sam	T	6-5	301	7	USC	D1b-08	D1b-Atl-08
69	Gunn, Harland	G	6-2	310	2	Miami	FA-12	FA-Dal-12
61	Hawley, Joe	C	6-3	302	5	UNLV	D4-10	D4-Atl-10
76	Holmes, Lamar	T	6-6	333	3	Southern Miss	D3-12	D3-Atl-12
66	Konz, Peter	C	6-5	317	3	Wisconsin	D2-12	D2-Atl-12
70	Matthews, Jake	T	6-5	309	1	Texas A&M	D1-14	D1-Atl-14
68	Person, Mike	T/G	6-4	299	4	Montana State	FA-StL-15	D7-SF-11
67	Replogle, Adam	G	6-3	294	1	Indiana	FA-14	FA-Atl-13
73	Schraeder, Ryan	T	6-7	300	2	Valdosta State	FA-13	FA-Atl-13
64	Smith, Jared	OL	6-4	302	1	New Hampshire	FA-15	FA-Sea-13
62	Stone, James	C/G	6-3	291	1	Tennessee	FA-14	FA-Atl-14
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
95	Babineaux, Jonathan	DT	6-2	300	10	Iowa	D2-05	D2-Atl-05
71	Biermann, Kroy	DE	6-3	255	7	Montana	D5b-08	D5b-Atl-08
99	Clayborn, Adrian	DE	6-3	280	4	Iowa	D1-11	D1-TB-11
93	Goodman, Malliciah	DE	6-4	276	2	Clemson	D4a-13	D4a-Atl-13
77	Hageman, Ra'Shede	DT	6-6	318	1	Minnesota	D2-14	D2-Atl-14
92	Heimuli, Ricky	DT	6-4	314	1	Oregon	FA-14	FA-Jac-14
94	Jackson, Tyson	DE	6-4	296	6	LSU	FA-KC-14	D1-KC-09
90	Maponga, Stansly	DE	6-2	265	2	TCU	D5-13	D5-Atl-13
98	Matthews, Cliff	DE	6-4	268	4	South Carolina	D7b-11	D7b-Atl-11
50	Schofield, O'Brien	DE	6-3	260	5	Wisconsin	FA-Sea-15	D4-Ari-10
96	Soliai, Paul	DT	6-4	345	8	Utah	FA-Mia-14	D4-Mia-07
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
59	Bartu, Joplo	LB	6-2	230	2	Texas State	FA-13	FA-Atl-13
53	Bradford, Allen	LB	5-11	235	4	USC	FA-15	D6-TB-11
52	Durant, Justin	LB	6-1	230	8	Hampton	FA-Dal-15	D2-Jac-07
56	Reed, Brooks	LB	6-3	254	4	Arizona	FA-Hou-15	D2a-Hou-11
91	Shembo, Prince	LB	6-0	253	1	Notre Dame	D4b-14	D4b-Atl-14
51	Spruill, Marquis	LB	6-0	224	1	Syracuse	D5b-14	D5b-Atl-14
54	Starr, Tyler	LB	6-5	250	1	South Dakota	D7b-14	D7b-Atl-14
52	Stupar, Nate	LB	6-2	240	2	Penn State	W-Jac-14	D7-Oak-12
55	Worrilow, Paul	LB	6-0	230	2	Delaware	FA-13	FA-Atl-13
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
20	Adams, Phillip	CB	5-11	195	5	South Carolina St.	FA-NYJ-15	D7-SF-10
23	Alford, Robert	CB	5-10	186	2	SE Louisiana	D2-13	D2-Atl-13
37	Allen, Ricardo	CB	5-9	186	1	Purdue	D5a-14	D5a-Atl-14
29	Baker, Sean	S	6-0	209	1	Ball State	FA-13	FA-TB-12
30	Godfrey, Charles	S	5-11	210	7	Iowa	FA-14	D3-Car-08
36	Ishmael, Kemal	S	6-0	206	2	UCF	D7a-13	D7a-Atl-13
25	Moore, William	S	6-0	221	5	Missouri	D2-09	D2-Atl-09
41	Southward, Dezmen	S	6-2	210	1	Wisconsin	D3-14	D3-Atl-14
21	Trufant, Desmond	CB	6-0	190	2	Washington	D1-13	D1-Atl-13
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
5	Bosher, Matt	P	6-0	208	4	Miami	D6-11	D6-Atl-11
3	Bryant, Matt	K	5-9	203	13	Baylor	FA-09	FA-NYG-02
47	Harris, Josh	LS	6-1	224	3	Auburn	FA-12	FA-Atl-12

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	11	Julio Jones
	85	Leonard Hankerson
WR	84	Roddy White
	16	Justin Hardy (R)
LT	70	Jake Matthews
	72	Sam Baker
LG	64	Jared Smith
	68	Mike Person
C	61	Joe Hawley
	66	Peter Konz
RG	75	Jon Asamoah
	62	James Stone
RT	73	Ryan Schraeder
	76	Lamar Holmes
TE	80	Levine Toilolo
	83	Jacob Tamme
QB	2	Matt Ryan
	13	T.J. Yates
FB	42	Patrick DiMarco
		Colin Mooney
RB	26	Tevin Coleman (R)
	24	Devonta Freeman

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	44	Vic Beasley (R)
	50	O'Brien Schofield
NT	96	Paul Soliai
	97	Grady Jarrett (R)
DT	77	Ra'Shede Hageman
	95	Jonathan Babineaux
DE	99	Adrian Clayborn
	71	Kroy Biermann
SLB	56	Brooks Reed
	91	Prince Shembo
MLB	55	Paul Worrilow
	51	Marquis Spruill
WLB	52	Justin Durant
	59	Joplo Bartu
CB	21	Desmond Trufant
	20	Phillip Adams
CB	23	Robert Alford
	32	Jalen Collins (R)
SS	25	William Moore
	36	Kemal Ishmael
FS	22	Dezmen Southward
	30	Charles Godfrey

SPECIALISTS

K	3	Matt Bryant
P	5	Matt Bosher
KR	17	Devin Hester
PR	17	Devin Hester

SCOUTING THE FALCONS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP ATLANTA "The lack of difference-making talent on this Falcons' roster cost head coach Mike Smith his job, so now the organization has shuffled the deck in the player personnel department and hired Dan Quinn from the Seahawks to fix the worst defense in the league. ... The heat is on because Matt Ryan does have franchise QB ability, but he will be entering his 10th season when Atlanta moves into a new stadium for the 2017 season. ... When healthy, Julio Jones is at the top of the league's wide receivers; however, the offensive line has been a total failure, and they still haven't found a top-shelf replacement for Tony Gonzalez at tight end. ... Third-round Indiana running back Tevin Coleman brings big speed to the table, and he should pair off well with Devonta Freeman. ... Amazingly, the defense is in worse shape. ... To upgrade the pressure issue, they drafted Clemson's Vic Beasley at No. 8 overall, and he should fit their coveted 'hybrid' DE/OLB spot. ... Corners Desmond Trufant and Robert Alford are OK, but neither has the height/weight/speed to contend with the giant-sized receivers in this division, so the club took a shot in the second round on LSU's Jalen Collins. ... None of their NFC South brethren has run off and dominated the division, so the Falcons have real hope that Quinn can engineer a quick turnaround."

2015 SCHEDULE

					2014 NFL RANKINGS			
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 14	Philadelphia (Mon.)	7:10	10-6	396.8 (5)	375.6 (28)	29.6 (3)	25.0 (22)
2	Sept. 20	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	6-10	367.2 (10)	375.8 (29)	23.8 (13)	25.0 (22)
3	Sept. 27	at Dallas	1:00	12-4	383.6 (7)	355.1 (19)	29.2 (5)	22.0 (15)
4	Oct. 4	Houston	1:00	9-7	344.6 (17)	348.2 (16)	23.3 (14)	19.2 (7)
5	Oct. 11	Washington	1:00	4-12	358.6 (13)	357.0 (20)	18.8 (26)	27.4 (29)
6	Oct. 15	at New Orleans (Thu.)	8:25	7-9	411.4 (1)	384.0 (31)	25.1 (9)	26.5 (28)
7	Oct. 25	at Tennessee	1:00	2-14	303.7 (29)	373.0 (27)	15.9 (30)	27.4 (30)
8	Nov. 1	Tampa Bay	1:00	2-14	292.0 (30)	368.9 (25)	17.3 (29)	25.6 (25)
9	Nov. 8	at San Francisco	4:05	8-8	327.4 (20)	321.4 (5)	19.1 (25)	21.3 (10)
10		BYE						
11	Nov. 22	Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	406.6 (3)	342.7 (11)	28.6 (6)	23.1 (19)
12	Nov. 29	Minnesota	1:00	7-9	315.5 (27)	344.7 (14)	20.3 (21)	21.4 (11)
13	Dec. 6	at Tampa Bay	1:00	2-14	292.0 (30)	368.9 (25)	17.3 (29)	25.6 (25)
14	Dec. 13	at Carolina	1:00	7-8-1	346.7 (16)	339.8 (10)	21.2 (19)	23.4 (21)
15	Dec. 20	at Jacksonville	1:00	3-13	289.6 (31)	370.8 (26)	15.6 (32)	25.8 (26)
16	Dec. 27	Carolina	1:00	7-8-1	346.7 (16)	339.8 (10)	21.2 (19)	23.4 (21)
17	Jan. 3	New Orleans	1:00	7-9	411.4 (1)	384.0 (31)	25.1 (9)	26.5 (28)

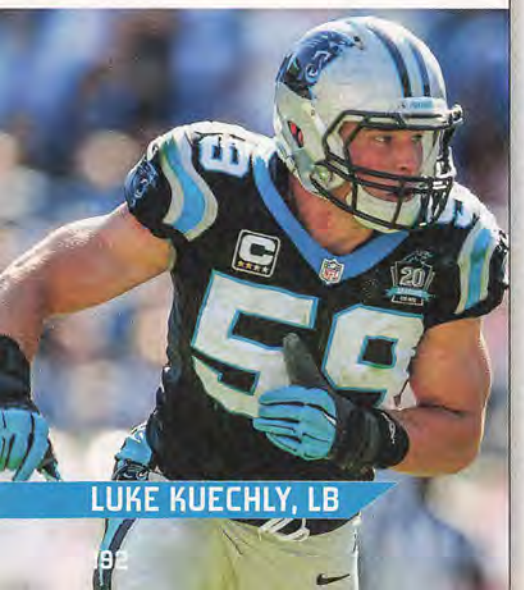
CAROLINA PANTHERS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Ron Rivera
RECORD WITH TEAM: 32–31–1
CAREER RECORD: 32–31–1
ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/SECONDARY: Steve Wilks
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Shula
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Sean McDermott
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Russ Pernell
QUARTERBACKS: Ken Dorsey
RUNNING BACKS: Jim Skipper
WIDE RECEIVERS: Ricky Proehl
TIGHT ENDS: Pete Hoener
OFFENSIVE LINE: John Matsko
DEFENSIVE LINE: Eric Washington
LINEBACKERS: Al Holcomb

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs



LUKE KUECHLY, LB

2 NFC SOUTH FORECAST

In 2014, the Carolina Panthers did something no other team in the NFC South had done before — they repeated as division champs.

Now in 2015 they will try to extend that streak to three years, relying once more on a standout defense that is the strength of the team.

In the offseason, the Panthers tried to get faster and to get quarterback Cam Newton some help for an offense that often struggled a year ago. They hope to avoid the awful start they had in 2014, when they began the season 3–8–1 and looked likely to earn a top-10 draft pick. They then ripped off five straight wins — four in the regular season and one in the playoffs over Arizona — before falling to Seattle on the road in a divisional playoff game.

The Panthers let troubled defensive end Greg Hardy leave for Dallas in free agency, but they still have the best middle linebacker in the game in Luke Kuechly. Newton and Kuechly are the faces of the franchise and will again determine much of the team's fortunes in 2015.

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/FOUNDER: Jerry Richardson
PRESIDENT: Danny Morrison
GENERAL MANAGER: Dave Gettleman
STADIUM: Bank of America Stadium (73,778)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.panthers.com
TICKETS: 704-358-7800
TRAINING CAMP: Wofford College (Spartanburg, S.C.)

OFFENSE The Panthers will remain a run-first offense in 2015. In the final five weeks of the 2014 regular season, Carolina ran for more yards than any other NFL team and went 4–1. That is the blueprint again this season. Bulldozer Jonathan Stewart will get the majority of the carries now that franchise leader DeAngelo Williams has been released. Newton is the Panthers' second-best running threat — he has always been a dual-threat quarterback, although he is trying to be smarter about not taking as many hits. Fullback Mike Tolbert regressed in 2014 but will be counted on in short-yardage situations. Rookie Cameron Artis-Payne will contend with scatback Fozzy Whittaker for many of the carries that Stewart doesn't get.

The most notable change on the offensive line comes at left tackle, where Michael Oher was signed to replace Byron Bell at one of the Panthers' problem positions. Oher was unsuccessful at his last stop in Tennessee, but the Panthers believe he still has enough in the tank to protect Newton. Center Ryan Kalil anchors the unit with professionalism and calm.

As for the passing game, it has to get more explosive. Tight end Greg Olsen and wide receiver Kelvin Benjamin each caught 1,008 yards worth of passes in 2014 — the first time since 1999 the Panthers had two 1,000-yard receivers. They will be the primary targets for Newton again this season. Olsen is a Pro Bowler who catches everything; Benjamin has some problems with drops but also has a knack for the spectacular.

But neither Olsen nor Benjamin are deep threats. The Panthers had success with Ted Ginn Jr. in that role in 2013, and after he disappointed in Arizona in 2014, they have re-signed him to do the same thing. Second-round draft pick Devin Funchess will play a lot early at the other wideout, but he's a big receiver with medium speed, similar to Benjamin. Corey Brown also will be counted on to run some deep routes, and Stephen Hill will get a chance, too. Second tight end Ed Dickson has good hands and, like Olsen, signed a new deal in the offseason.

As for Newton, he remains an incredible athlete and has become a much better leader. But he still has occasional problems with his accuracy and throwing mechanics. Unlike 2014, however, Newton has been healthy throughout the offseason, which should help.

DEFENSE It starts with the linebackers — Carolina believes it may have the best tandem in the game in Kuechly and Thomas Davis. Those two never come off the field, and they chase down so many plays from sideline to sideline that potential 20-yard gains for the opposition are often getting turned into 4-yard plays. Kuechly's form tackling should be studied by every youth football player.

Shaq Thompson, the team's first-round draft pick, is a versatile athlete (he also gained 456 yards as a running back in his last year at Washington) who may start at weak-side linebacker right away over A.J. Klein — if Thompson can show he has the strength to get off blocks.

The defensive front loses Hardy, but it didn't have the erratic defensive end for 15 games in 2014, either, due to a domestic violence issue. Second-year end Kony Ealy will need to step up his game to help replace Hardy, with Wes Horton and Mario Addison also helping out. The other defensive end, Charles Johnson, is winding down his career but is still a bull-rushing force when single-blocked. Defensive tackle Star Lotulelei was not a star in 2014 after a great rookie year, and the Panthers need a more consistent performance from him in his third season. Kawann Short may be poised for a breakout season at the other defensive tackle spot.

The secondary was the team's weak spot for most of last season and remains a little iffy. Cornerback Josh Norman is emerging as one of the best cover corners in the NFC, but

Kuechly, Newton: Tom DiPace; Cheerleader: Margaret Bowles

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

THE BLIND SIDE Michael Oher, the subject of the book and movie "The Blind Side," has joined Carolina and is penciled in at starting left tackle. He says his new teammates have not gotten to know him well enough yet to tease him about Sandra Bullock or anything else. "I'm pretty sure," Oher says, "once everyone gets to know me, they'll start making fun of me."

THANKSGIVING DAY For the first time in their 21-year history, the Panthers will play on Thanksgiving Day, going to Dallas for a Nov. 26 game. That 4:30 p.m. ET contest will feature numerous storylines, possibly including Oher blocking his former high school teammate, Greg Hardy.

LIVING IN A SHED Fifth-round draft pick David Mayo once lived in a shed behind a house for a year while he went to junior college in California because rent was so expensive. Mayo says he paid $450 per month, slept on a mattress and ran an extension cord to the house to get a power supply.

TWO MEN OF THE YEAR The Panthers have a rarity on defense — they will boast the last two Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year award winners this season. The award is given for community service and playing excellence. Thomas Davis won it in 2014; new Panther Charles Tillman won it while with Chicago in 2013.

SHAQ ATTACK New Panther linebacker Shaq Thompson was named for former NBA star Shaquille O'Neal, although he says his mother was not a big basketball fan.

CAM NO. 2 Fifth-round draft pick Cameron Artis-Payne has always gone by "Cam," but when he got to Auburn he switched that to "CAP" (his initials) because everyone thought of Cam Newton when they heard "Cam." Now after following Newton into the NFL as well, though, Artis-Payne says he's going to "introduce myself as Cam and we'll see where it goes from there."

HARPER'S HAIR Starting safety Roman Harper, 32, has more gray hair than almost any player in the NFL. And he doesn't care. "I rock the gray hair, man," Harper says. "I got my first gray hair when I was in seventh grade — my barber showed it to me — so I've been actually been graying the majority of my life. I had it in high school a little bit. I had it throughout college. I've had it forever, and it's part of who I am. It's part of my strength."

DECEMBERS TO REMEMBER The Panthers have frequently started slowly under coach Ron Rivera, but they are 15–3 in December since he became the team's head coach in 2011. That's tied for the best December record in the NFL during that span.

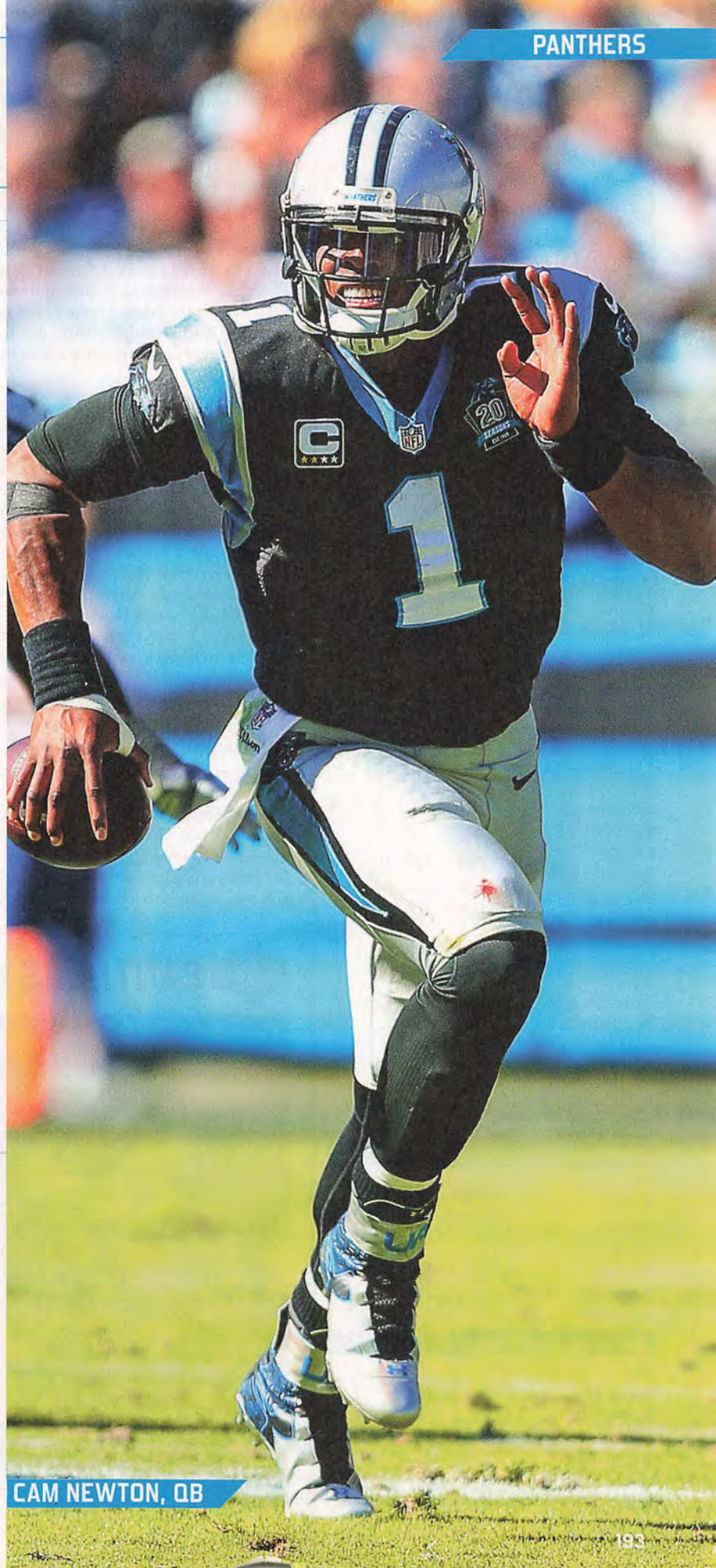
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
WR	Jarrett Boykin	Green Bay
S	Kurt Coleman	Kansas City
WR	Ted Ginn Jr.	Arizona
OT	Jonathan Martin	San Francisco
OT	Michael Oher	Tennessee
CB	Charles Tillman	Chicago

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
OT	Byron Bell	Tennessee
DE	Greg Hardy	Dallas
RB	DeAngelo Williams	Pittsburgh



CAM NEWTON, QB

2014 RESULTS (7-8-1)

Sept. 7	at Tampa Bay	W	20-14
Sept. 14	Detroit	W	24-7
Sept. 21	Pittsburgh	L	19-37
Sept. 28	at Baltimore	L	10-38
Oct. 5	Chicago	W	31-24
Oct. 12	at Cincinnati (ot)	T	37-37
Oct. 19	at Green Bay	L	17-38
Oct. 26	Seattle	L	9-13
Oct. 30	New Orleans	L	10-28
Nov. 10	at Philadelphia	L	21-45
Nov. 16	Atlanta	L	17-19
Nov. 30	at Minnesota	L	13-31
Dec. 7	at New Orleans	W	41-10
Dec. 14	Tampa Bay	W	19-17
Dec. 21	Cleveland	W	17-13
Dec. 28	at Atlanta	W	34-3
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 3	Arizona	W	27-16
Jan. 10	at Seattle	L	17-31

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Cam Newton	448	262	3,127	18	12
Derek Anderson	97	65	701	5	0
RUSHING	**ATT**		**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Jonathan Stewart	175		809	4.6	3
Cam Newton	103		539	5.2	5
DeAngelo Williams	62		219	3.5	0
RECEIVING	**REC**		**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Greg Olsen	84		1,008	12.0	6
Kelvin Benjamin	73		1,008	13.8	9
Jerricho Cotchery	48		580	12.1	1
Jonathan Stewart	25		181	7.2	1
Philly Brown	21		296	14.1	2

KICKING: Graham Gano, 29-35 FGs, 34-34 PATs, 121 points
TACKLES: Luke Kuechly, 153; Thomas Davis, 100
SACKS: Charles Johnson, 8.5; Mario Addison, 6.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Roman Harper, 4; Two players tied with 2

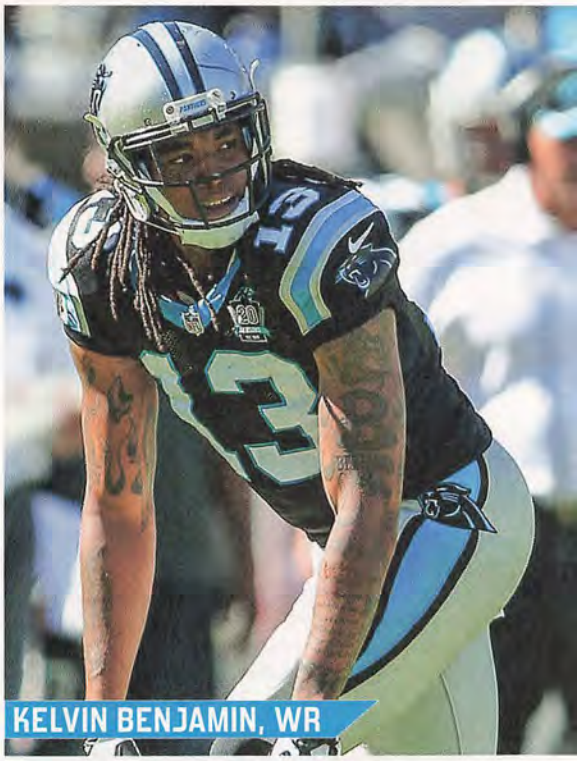
2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	346.7	16	9
Rushing	127.2	7	4
Passing	219.4	19	11
Scoring	21.2	19	8
Third Down %	41.9	12	8
Punt Returns	8.0	18	10
Kick Returns	21.8	T24	T11

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	339.8	10	4
Rushing	112.0	16	9
Passing	227.8	11	5
Scoring	23.4	21	9
Interceptions	14	T14	T8
Sacks	40	T13	T6
Turnover Differential	+3	13	8

the second corner spot may need to be filled by Charles "Peanut" Tillman if he can still run fast enough to do it. Bene Benwikere is more naturally suited to the nickel cornerback role and will play there. Safety Roman Harper has lost a step but is still crafty. Free safety Tre Boston has speed but makes too many youthful mistakes.

Carolina is one of only three NFL teams to boast a top-10 defense in each of the past three seasons (Seattle and San Francisco are the others). If the Panthers are going to make the playoffs again, they will need a fourth straight year in the top 10.


KELVIN BENJAMIN, WR

SPECIALISTS Carolina took a step back in 2014 on special teams, and it cost the team several times. Most notably, the Panthers had two punts blocked — and both ended up going for Minnesota touchdowns in a nasty loss to the Vikings. General manager Dave Gettleman made a point in the offseason of signing several players who will be contributors on the coverage and return units and also brought back Ginn to return punts. Kicker Graham Gano had the best touchback percentage in the league last season (77.2) and has such a strong leg that a 65-yard field goal is not out of the question — although he did miss a couple of key field goals last year. Punter Brad Nortman and long snapper J.J. Jansen are solid.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Panthers are fortunate to play in a division without a great team, and the early part of the schedule looks soft enough that they should start at least 3–1. An Oct. 18 road trip to Seattle — the team that has been the Panthers' bugaboo ever since Russell Wilson arrived — will be critical.

Newton's play will be as important as ever, but the Panthers also need at least one more playmaker on offense and hope Funchess can be that guy. A stout defense will keep Carolina in nearly every game. This is a team that should contend for a third straight playoff berth but will need to improve offensively if it is going to advance far in the postseason.

PANTHERS IN THE DRAFT

D

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Shaq Thompson	OLB	6-0	228	Washington
2.	Devin Funchess	WR	6-4	232	Michigan
4.	Daryl Williams	T	6-5	327	Oklahoma
5.	David Mayo	LB	6-2	228	Texas State
5.	Cameron Artis-Payne	RB	5-10	212	Auburn

The Panthers hope that Shaq Thompson follows a similar path to Thomas Davis, who played multiple positions in college before settling in as a star outside linebacker. Devin Funchess, a tight end earlier in his career at Michigan, gives the Panthers their second big body at wideout, although his speed is questionable. Still, Funchess could open the season in the starting lineup. Daryl Williams may have been a steal in the fourth round — Carolina sent three picks to Oakland to get him — and will have a shot at beating out Mike Remmers at right tackle. David Mayo will need to make a mark on special teams early, while Cameron Artis-Payne, who does not have blazing speed but runs well inside, will get his shot as Jonathan Stewart's backup. He rushed for 1,608 yards as a senior at Auburn.

Benjamin: Tom DiPace; Thompson: Peter Brouillet

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
3	Anderson, Derek	QB	6-6	230	10	Oregon State	FA-11	D6-Bal-05
1	Newton, Cam	QB	6-5	245	4	Auburn	D1-11	D1-Car-11
14	Webb, Joe	QB	6-4	230	5	UAB	FA-Min-14	D6-Min-10

RUNNING BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
47	Brockel, Richie	FB	6-1	255	4	Boise State	FA-11	FA-SD-10
36	Reaves, Darrin	RB	5-10	220	1	UAB	FA-14	FA-Car-14
28	Stewart, Jonathan	RB	5-10	235	7	Oregon	D1a-08	D1a-Car-08
30	Todman, Jordan	RB	5-10	198	2	Connecticut	FA-Jac-15	D6-SD-11
35	Tolbert, Mike	FB	5-9	245	7	Coastal Carolina	FA-SD-12	FA-SD-08
43	Whittaker, Fozzy	RB	5-10	205	2	Texas	FA-14	FA-Ari-12

RECEIVERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
13	Benjamin, Kelvin	WR	6-5	240	1	Florida State	D1-14	D1-Car-14
11	Bersin, Brenton	WR	6-3	210	1	Wofford	FA-13	FA-Car-12
15	Boykin, Jarrett	WR	6-2	218	3	Virginia Tech	FA-GB-15	FA-Jac-12
16	Brown, Philly	WR	5-11	180	1	Ohio State	FA-14	FA-Car-14
82	Cotchery, Jerricho	WR	6-1	205	11	NC State	FA-Pit-14	D4-NYJ-04
84	Dickson, Ed	TE	6-4	255	5	Oregon	FA-Bal-14	D3-Bal-10
19	Ginn Jr., Ted	WR	5-11	185	8	Ohio State	FA-Ari-15	D1-Mia-07
80	Greene, Kevin	TE	6-3	245	1	USC	FA-14	FA-SF-14
87	Hill, Stephen	WR	6-4	215	3	Georgia Tech	FA-14	D2-NYJ-12
83	Lucas, Marcus	WR	6-4	220	1	Missouri	FA-14	FA-Car-14
88	Olsen, Greg	TE	6-5	253	8	Miami	T-Chi-11	D1-Chi-07
10	Presley, De'Andre	WR	5-10	190	1	Appalachian State	FA-13	FA-SD-12
86	Williams, Brandon	TE	6-4	250	2	Oregon	FA-13	FA-Car-13

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
78	Chandler, Nate	T	6-4	315	3	UCLA	FA-12	FA-Car-12
64	Folkerts, Brian	C	6-4	310	2	Washburn	FA-13	FA-NO-12
63	Foucault, David	T	6-8	305	1	Montreal	FA-14	FA-Car-14
72	Hughes, Kevin	T	6-4	315	2	SE Louisiana	FA-14	FA-StL-11
67	Kalil, Ryan	C	6-2	300	8	USC	D2b-07	D2b-Car-07
71	Kugbila, Edmund	G	6-4	325	2	Valdosta State	D4-13	D4-Car-13
75	Martin, Jonathan	T	6-5	312	3	Stanford	W-SF-15	D2-Mia-12
68	Norwell, Andrew	G	6-6	310	1	Ohio State	FA-14	FA-Car-14
73	Oher, Michael	T	6-4	315	6	Ole Miss	FA-Ten-15	D1-Bal-09
74	Remmers, Mike	T	6-5	300	2	Oregon State	FA-14	FA-Den-12
79	Scott, Chris	G	6-4	345	3	Tennessee	FA-14	D5-Pit-10
66	Silatolu, Amini	G	6-4	315	3	Midwestern State	D2-12	D2-Car-12
70	Turner, Trai	G	6-3	320	1	LSU	D3-14	D3-Car-14
73	Wallace, Martin	T	6-6	305	2	Temple	FA-14	FA-Cle-13

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
97	Addison, Mario	DE	6-3	260	4	Troy	FA-12	FA-Chi-11
90	Alexander, Frank	DE	6-4	270	3	Oklahoma	D4a-12	D4a-Car-12
91	Cole, Colin	DT	6-2	330	8	Iowa	FA-13	FA-Min-13
94	Ealy, Kony	DE	6-4	275	1	Missouri	D2-14	D2-Car-14
92	Edwards, Dwan	DT	6-3	305	11	Oregon State	FA-12	D2-Bal-04
96	Horton, Wes	DE	6-5	270	2	USC	FA-13	FA-Car-13
95	Johnson, Charles	DE	6-2	285	8	Georgia	D3-07	D3-Car-07
98	Lotulelei, Star	DT	6-2	320	2	Utah	D1-13	D1-Car-13
61	Love, Kyle	DT	6-1	315	4	Mississippi State	FA-14	FA-NE-10
72	Regis, Micanor	DT	6-3	305	1	Miami	FA-14	FA-Atl-12
99	Short, Kawann	DT	6-3	315	2	Purdue	D2-13	D2-Car-13

LINEBACKERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
58	Davis, Thomas	LB	6-1	235	10	Georgia	D1-05	D1-Car-05
57	Glanton, Adarius	LB	6-1	230	1	Florida Atlantic	FA-14	FA-Car-14
53	Jacobs, Ben	LB	6-4	245	2	Fresno State	FA-13	FA-Cle-11
56	Klein, A.J.	LB	6-1	245	2	Iowa State	D5-13	D5-Car-13
59	Kuechly, Luke	LB	6-3	238	3	Boston College	D1-12	D1-Car-12
52	Reddick, Kevin	LB	6-1	245	2	North Carolina	FA-14	FA-NO-13
93	Trusnik, Jason	LB	6-4	252	8	Ohio Northern	FA-Mia-15	FA-NYJ-07

DEFENSIVE BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
25	Benwikere, Bene	CB	6-0	185	1	San Jose State	D5-14	D5-Car-14
33	Boston, Tre	S	6-1	205	1	North Carolina	D4-14	D4-Car-14
37	Byndom, Carrington	CB	6-0	180	1	Texas	FA-14	FA-Car-14
20	Coleman, Kurt	S	5-11	200	5	Ohio State	FA-KC-15	D7-Phi-10
41	Harper, Roman	S	6-1	205	9	Alabama	FA-14	D2-NO-06
42	Jones, Colin	S	6-0	205	4	TCU	T-SF-12	D6b-SF-11
38	Lester, Robert	S	6-1	225	2	Alabama	FA-13	FA-Car-13
27	McFadden, Kimario	S	5-11	210	1	South Carolina St.	FA-14	FA-Atl-14
24	Norman, Josh	CB	6-0	195	3	Coastal Carolina	D5-12	D5-Car-12
	Tillman, Charles	CB	6-2	198	12	UL Lafayette	D2-03	D2-Chi-03
23	White, Melvin	CB	6-1	205	2	UL Lafayette	FA-13	FA-Car-13
21	Williams, Teddy	CB	6-1	207	3	Texas-San Antonio	FA-Jac-15	FA-Dal-10
22	Young, Lou	CB	6-1	195	1	Georgia Tech	FA-14	FA-Den-14

SPECIALISTS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
9	Gano, Graham	K	6-2	205	5	Florida State	FA-12	FA-Bal-09
44	Jansen, J.J.	LS	6-2	240	7	Notre Dame	T-GB-09	FA-GB-08
8	Nortman, Brad	P	6-2	210	3	Wisconsin	D6-12	D6-Car-12

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	13	Kelvin Benjamin
	17	Devin Funchess (R)
WR	82	Jerricho Cotchery
	19	Ted Ginn Jr.
LT	73	Michael Oher
	75	Jonathan Martin
LG	68	Andrew Norwell
	66	Amini Silatolu
C	67	Ryan Kalil
	64	Brian Folkerts
RG	70	Trai Turner
	79	Chris Scott
RT	74	Mike Remmers
	60	Daryl Williams (R)
TE	88	Greg Olsen
	84	Ed Dickson
QB	1	Cam Newton
	3	Derek Anderson
FB	35	Mike Tolbert
	47	Richie Brockel
RB	28	Jonathan Stewart
	43	Fozzy Whittaker

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	95	Charles Johnson
	97	Mario Addison
DT	98	Star Lotulelei
	91	Colin Cole
DT	99	Kawann Short
	92	Dwan Edwards
DE	96	Wes Horton
	94	Kony Ealy
SLB	58	Thomas Davis
	57	Adarius Glanton
MLB	59	Luke Kuechly
	93	Jason Trusnik
WLB	54	Shaq Thompson (R)
	56	A.J. Klein
CB	24	Josh Norman
	25	Bene Benwikere
CB		Charles Tillman
	37	Carrington Byndom
SS	41	Roman Harper
	20	Kurt Coleman
FS	33	Tre Boston
	42	Colin Jones

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Graham Gano
P	8	Brad Nortman
KR	30	Jordan Todman
PR	19	Ted Ginn Jr.

SCOUTING THE PANTHERS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP CAROLINA "Carolina took a step back in 2014 after the retirement of left tackle Jordan Gross and the free-agent departure of wide receiver Steve Smith. However, the entire division got worse, so the Panthers got into the playoffs and actually won a game. ... Cam Newton was harassed and hit all year behind a porous offensive line and then capped the season with a near-tragic car accident. ... 2014 No. 1 pick Kelvin Benjamin showed that he was far more advanced than people expected and looks like a future star. ... Tight end Greg Olsen has quietly enjoyed a very productive NFL career after being traded from Chicago in July 2011. ... The Greg Hardy legal situation drained the entire organization on and off the field, and while he spent almost the entire season on the commissioner's exempt list, the Panthers still managed to finish 10th in total defense. ... Their front seven is strong with legit interior defensive linemen and all-star linebackers Luke Kuechly and Thomas Davis. ... The secondary survived due to the emergence of two rookies: corner Bene Benwikere and strong safety Tre Boston, but surprisingly, the entire unit was not addressed in the draft. ... With Newton and Kuechly as the cornerstones, Carolina will always contend for division honors. The question is, can they improve enough everywhere else to challenge for a Super Bowl?"

2015 SCHEDULE

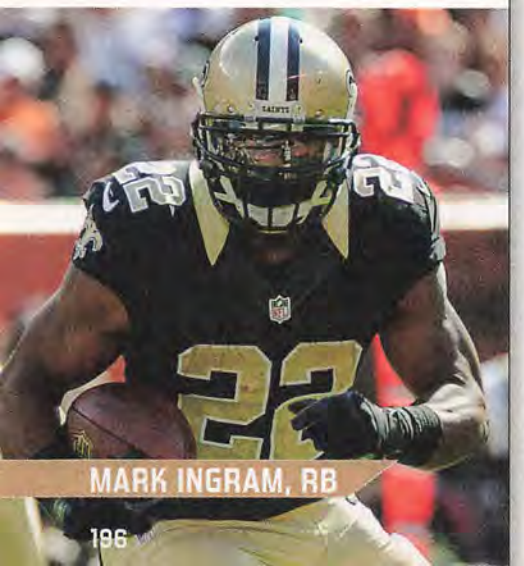
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	2014 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	at Jacksonville	1:00	3-13	289.6 (31)	370.8 (26)	15.6 (32)	25.8 (26)
2	Sept. 20	Houston	1:00	9-7	344.6 (17)	348.2 (16)	23.3 (14)	19.2 (7)
3	Sept. 27	New Orleans	1:00	7-9	411.4 (1)	384.0 (31)	25.1 (9)	26.5 (28)
4	Oct. 4	at Tampa Bay	1:00	2-14	292.0 (30)	368.9 (25)	17.3 (29)	25.6 (25)
5		BYE						
6	Oct. 18	at Seattle	4:05	12-4	375.8 (9)	267.1 (1)	24.6 (10)	15.9 (1)
7	Oct. 25	Philadelphia	8:30	10-6	396.8 (5)	375.6 (28)	29.6 (3)	25.0 (22)
8	Nov. 2	Indianapolis (Mon.)	8:30	11-5	406.6 (3)	342.7 (11)	28.6 (6)	23.1 (19)
9	Nov. 8	Green Bay	1:00	12-4	386.1 (6)	346.4 (15)	30.4 (1)	21.8 (13)
10	Nov. 15	at Tennessee	1:00	2-14	303.7 (29)	373.0 (27)	15.9 (30)	27.4 (30)
11	Nov. 22	Washington	1:00	4-12	358.6 (13)	357.0 (20)	18.8 (26)	27.4 (29)
12	Nov. 26	at Dallas (Thu.)	4:30	12-4	383.6 (7)	355.1 (19)	29.2 (5)	22.0 (15)
13	Dec. 6	at New Orleans	1:00	7-9	411.4 (1)	384.0 (31)	25.1 (9)	26.5 (28)
14	Dec. 13	Atlanta	1:00	6-10	378.2 (8)	398.3 (32)	23.8 (12)	26.1 (27)
15	Dec. 20	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	6-10	367.2 (10)	375.8 (29)	23.8 (13)	25.0 (22)
16	Dec. 27	at Atlanta	1:00	6-10	378.2 (8)	398.3 (32)	23.8 (12)	26.1 (27)
17	Jan. 3	Tampa Bay	1:00	2-14	292.0 (30)	368.9 (25)	17.3 (29)	25.6 (25)

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Sean Payton
RECORD WITH TEAM: 80–48
CAREER RECORD: 80–48
ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/LINEBACKERS: Joe Vitt
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Pete Carmichael
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Rob Ryan
SENIOR DEFENSIVE ASSISTANT: Dennis Allen
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Greg McMahon
QUARTERBACKS: Mike Neu
RUNNING BACKS: Joel Thomas
WIDE RECEIVERS: John Morton
TIGHT ENDS: Dan Roushar
OFFENSIVE LINE: Bret Ingalls
DEFENSIVE LINE: Bill Johnson
OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS: Brian Young
SECONDARY: Wesley McGriff

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



MARK INGRAM, RB

1 NFC SOUT FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/CHAIRMAN: Tom Benson
EXECUTIVE VP/GENERAL MANAGER: Mickey Loomis
DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION: Khai Harley
STADIUM: Mercedes-Benz Superdome (73,208)
SURFACE: UBU Sports Speed Series S5-M
WEBSITE: www.neworleanssaints.com
TICKETS: 504-731-1700
TRAINING CAMP: New Orleans Saints Training Facility (Metairie, La.), The Greenbrier (White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.)

As long as Drew Brees is the quarterback, the Saints will always have a shot to win the NFC South and make the playoffs. But rivals have passed the Saints in other areas, and it all caught up to them in 2014. Team officials realized they couldn't continue to rely on Brees to simply outscore opponents with his dazzling passing skills. So they conducted an eyebrow-raising roster overhaul in the offseason in an effort to bolster their aging offensive line and flagging defense. The Saints are counting on more new faces than they have in a long time and are something of a mystery team in the NFC race.

OFFENSE The names change, but the production should remain prolific. Even without Jimmy Graham and Kenny Stills, look for the Saints to continue to rank among the league leaders in yards and points. Since coach Sean Payton and Brees arrived in 2006, the Saints have finished no worse than sixth in total offense and 12th in scoring offense. At 36, Brees has started to show signs of age, but he's still highly effective when not asked to do too much and given time in the pocket to find his receivers. Look for Brees to spread the ball around more without the dynamic Graham in the lineup. The Saints have no one on the roster with Graham's physical skill set, and his absence will challenge Payton's play-calling creativity, especially in the red zone, where an alley-oop to Graham meant an automatic six points the past few seasons.

The Saints are high on athletic third-year tight end Josh Hill. He showed big-play ability in a limited role last season, when five of his 14 receptions went for touchdowns. Speedy Brandin Cooks was extremely productive as a rookie before breaking his thumb. He'll be called on to produce more explosive plays with Graham and Stills gone. Young veterans Nick Toon, Joe Morgan, Seantavius Jones and Brandon Coleman will compete for spots in the rotation.

Until the passing attack sorts itself out, Brees can lean on a reliable run game that ranked ninth in the NFL in average yards per carry (4.5). With Mark Ingram, C.J. Spiller and Khiry Robinson in the backfield, the running game should be a strength. Ingram is coming off his finest season as a pro and is firmly entrenched as the lead back. Spiller was signed in free agency to play the satellite back role in which Reggie Bush and Darren Sproles excelled from 2006-13. The powerful Robinson is one of the most difficult backs in the league to tackle.

All of this firepower will go for naught if the offensive line doesn't improve. The unit had been one of the most consistent in the NFL over the years but started to show its age last season. Brees was sacked 29 times and often hurried into crucial interceptions. To that end, the Saints acquired veteran center Max Unger in the Graham trade and selected tackle Andrus Peat in the first round of the NFL Draft. Peat is probably a year away from seeing the field, with the athletic Terron Armstead and the underrated Zach Strief bookending the line at tackle. But Unger, a former Pro Bowler, will be an immediate upgrade at center. Right guard is the lone question mark. Former undrafted free agent Tim Lelito will get the first crack to replace Ben Grubbs. He'll need to stay healthy, because there is little experience behind him.

DEFENSE Whatever pixie dust coordinator Rob Ryan had in his glorious debut season, he ran out of in 2014 as the Saints plummeted from No. 4 to No. 31 in total defense. Payton has given him the chance to right the ship but brought in former Raiders head coach and Broncos defensive coordinator Dennis Allen to assist him. The Saints were plagued by blown coverage assignments and alignment errors early last season and never recovered.

The top offseason priority will be improving the play of the team's talented but underperforming defensive line. Ends Akiem Hicks and Cameron Jordan are both due for rebound seasons after disappointing in 2014. Hicks has the physical skills to dominate opponents but is frustratingly inconsistent. He could be facing a make-or-break season. Likewise, Jordan failed to make enough big plays and now enters a contract season with an uncertain future. The team's best pass rusher, outside linebacker Junior Galette, was rewarded with a four-year, $40 million contract early in 2014, then lost the trust of team officials because of off-field transgressions. He has explosive burst but is undersized and can be overpowered at the point of attack. Brodrick Bunkley and John Jenkins form a powerful one-two punch at nose guard.

The linebacker unit needs work. Three rookies and veterans Anthony Spencer and Dannell Ellerbee were acquired in the offseason in an effort to bolster the unit. Only veteran David Hawthorne, who replaces Curtis Lofton as the play-caller inside, appears locked into a starting spot. Rookie sparkplug Hau'oli Kikaha will platoon with veteran Parys Haralson on the

Ingram: Kyle Lanzer ; Cheerleader: AP; Brees: Tom DiPace;

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

FAMILY MAN Doniel Gambrell is not your average undrafted free agent. The 24-year-old offensive lineman is married with three kids. He worked a second- and third-shift job throughout his senior season at Notre Dame College in South Euclid, Ohio, to support his family. Once people learn his feel-good story, Gambrell will be a guy Saints fans root for to make the roster. "He's been a full-time father, a full-time husband, a full-time student, a full-time athlete and a full-time worker," Bill Rychel, the offensive coordinator and assistant head coach at Notre Dame, told the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*. "He knows what he wants and has worked hard for it."

DRAFT DROUGHT ENDED When the Saints took Colorado State quarterback Garrett Grayson in the third round of the NFL Draft they ended an amazing streak. Grayson is the first quarterback drafted by the Saints in the first three rounds since the club selected Archie Manning in Round 1 back in 1971.

ILLINOIS CONNECTION Saints first-round draft pick Andrus Peat and head coach Sean Payton have an odd connection. Payton and Peat's father, Todd, went on a recruiting visit to Northern Illinois together when the two were high school seniors in Illinois. Todd Peat was an offensive tackle at Champagne Central High School and later played in the NFL for the Cardinals and Raiders. Payton was a star quarterback at Naperville Central who eventually signed with Eastern Illinois.

SPILLER, LEWIS IN THAT NUMBER Keenan Lewis showed that he was a team player during the offseason by surrendering his No. 28 jersey to new running back C.J. Spiller. Spiller wore No. 28 with the Buffalo Bills. "Twenty-eight meant a lot to Spiller, and I respect that. I'm not selfish, a team guy," wrote Lewis on his Instagram site. Lewis said he'd buy a new jersey for fans who have his old jersey and a receipt.

HOMETOWN HERO Rookie defensive tackle Kaleb Eulls is a long shot to make the roster, but he's already a hero in his home state of Mississippi for a celebrated act of heroism as a high school senior. Eulls saved a bus full of high school classmates when he disarmed a troubled female student who was brandishing a pistol and threatening harm. Eulls averted a potential tragedy by steering students out of the emergency exit at the back of the bus then tackling the girl and dislodging the handgun when she became distracted.

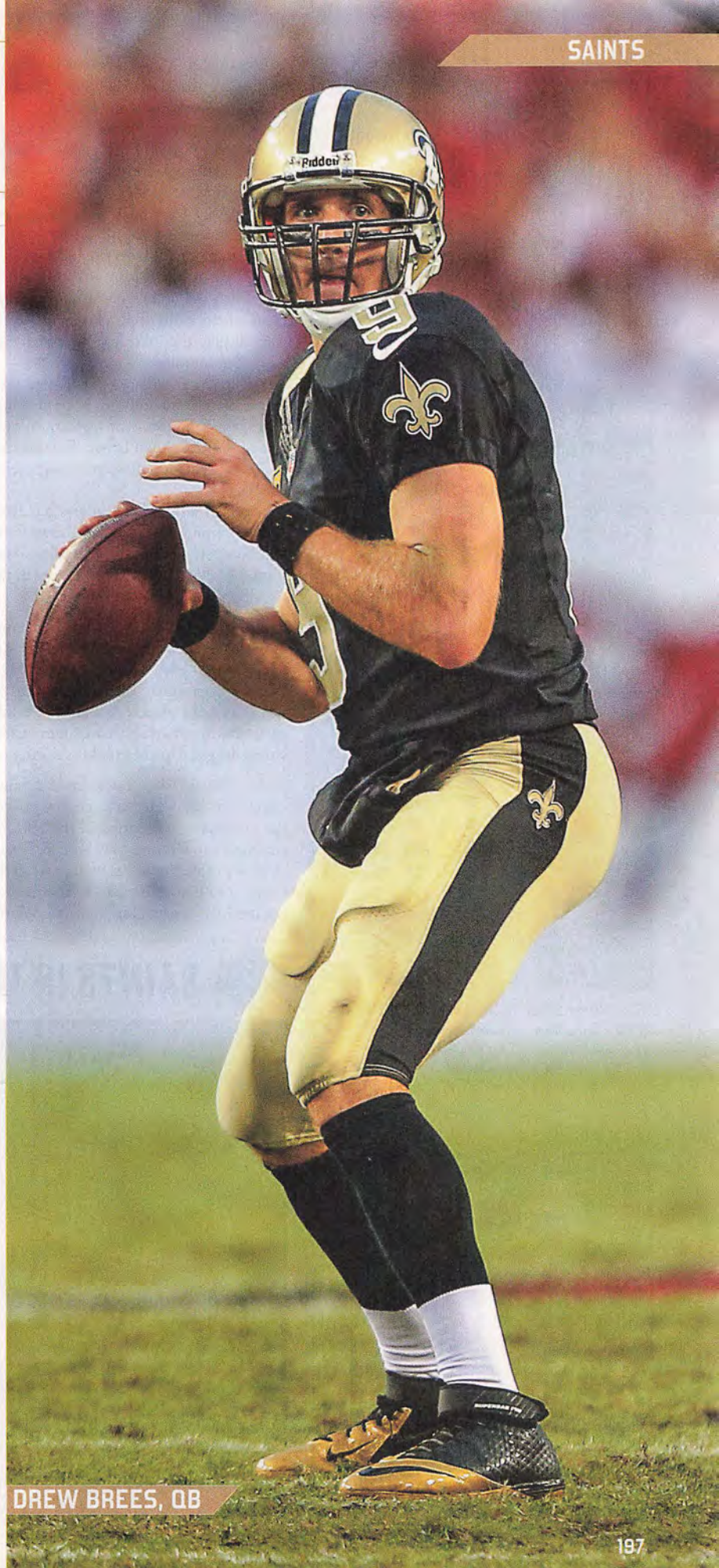
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
CB	Brandon Browner	New England
ILB	Dannell Ellerbe	Miami
OLB	Anthony Spencer	Dallas
RB	C.J. Spiller	Buffalo
C	Max Unger	Seattle
CB	Kyle Wilson	N.Y. Jets

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
TE	Jimmy Graham	Seattle
C	Jonathan Goodwin	Free Agent
OG	Ben Grubbs	Kansas City
LB	Curtis Lofton	Oakland
CB	Patrick Robinson	San Diego
WR	Kenny Stills	Miami
RB	Pierre Thomas	Free Agent



DREW BREES, QB

2014 RESULTS (7-9)

Sept. 7	at Atlanta (ot)	L	34-37
Sept. 14	at Cleveland	L	24-26
Sept. 21	Minnesota	W	20-9
Sept. 28	at Dallas	L	17-38
Oct. 5	Tampa Bay (ot)	W	37-31
Oct. 19	at Detroit	L	23-24
Oct. 26	Green Bay	W	44-23
Oct. 30	at Carolina	W	28-10
Nov. 9	San Francisco (ot)	L	24-27
Nov. 16	Cincinnati	L	10-27
Nov. 24	Baltimore	L	27-34
Nov. 30	at Pittsburgh	W	35-32
Dec. 7	Carolina	L	10-41
Dec. 15	at Chicago	W	31-15
Dec. 21	Atlanta	L	14-30
Dec. 28	at Tampa Bay	W	23-20

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Drew Brees	659	456	4,952	33	17
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Mark Ingram	226	964	4.3	9	
Khiry Robinson	76	362	4.8	3	
Pierre Thomas	45	222	4.9	2	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Jimmy Graham	85	889	10.5	10	
Kenny Stills	63	931	14.8	3	
Marques Colston	59	902	15.3	5	
Brandin Cooks	53	550	10.4	3	
Pierre Thomas	45	378	8.4	1	
Travaris Cadet	38	296	7.8	1	

KICKING: Shayne Graham, 19-22 FGs, 46-47 PATs, 103 points
TACKLES: Curtis Lofton, 141; David Hawthorne, 83
SACKS: Junior Galette, 10.0; Cameron Jordan, 7.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Five players tied with 2

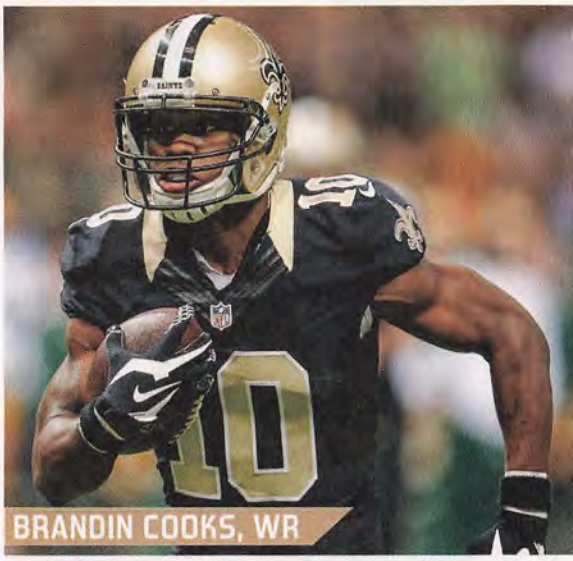
2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	411.4	1	1
Rushing	113.6	13	7
Passing	297.8	3	1
Scoring	25.1	9	4
Third Down %	48.3	1	1
Punt Returns	7.1	T22	13
Kick Returns	25.9	7	2
TEAM DEFENSE	**Stat**	**NFL Rank**	**NFC Rank**
Total	384.0	31	15
Rushing	132.8	29	15
Passing	251.2	25	10
Scoring	26.5	28	14
Interceptions	12	T21	T14
Sacks	34	25	14
Turnover Differential	-13	31	16

strong side. The staff loves his intensity and pass-rush ability. Hulking rookie Stephone Anthony is the kind of physical thumper Ryan has longed for since he arrived in 2013. He'll compete with Ellerbe at the other inside spot.

The return to health of veteran free safety Jairus Byrd will go a long way toward improving the leaky secondary. The former Pro Bowler should be motivated for a big season after his injury-riddled debut in New Orleans. His center field skills free up Kenny Vaccaro to play the joker role in which he thrived as a rookie.

The No. 2 cornerback spot riddled the Saints last season, and they hope veteran free agent Brandon Browner can fill the role opposite Keenan Lewis. The success of Ryan's scheme relies on strong press coverage.


BRANDIN COOKS, WR

There's an army of candidates but few proven commodities beyond Browner and Lewis. Rookies P.J. Williams and Damian Swann will compete with former Jets first-round washout Kyle Wilson for the nickel spot. CFL import Delvin Breaux is the sleeper in the group. Second-year men Brian Dixon and Stanley Jean-Baptiste are also in the mix.

SPECIALISTS Thomas Morstead remains one of the most consistently productive punters and kickoff specialists in the league. He's the strength of an otherwise nondescript special teams group. Jalen Saunders and rookie Marcus Murphy will try to spice up the club's moribund return units. The Saints haven't returned a punt or a kickoff for a touchdown since 2011. Veteran placekicker Shayne Graham has lost a bit of leg strength over his 14-year career but is remarkably consistent inside of 40 yards. He'll have to fight off a challenge from strong-legged Dustin Hopkins during training camp.

FINAL ANALYSIS Look for the Saints to bounce back from their disappointing 2014 campaign. How far back remains to be seen. The best thing they have going for them is the mediocre competition in the NFC South. If the defensive changes work, the Saints can resume their winning ways and challenge the Falcons and Panthers for the division title. But there are more questions than answers on both sides of the ball, and a lot of things will have to fall into place for them to regain their status as title contenders in the NFC. They'll be competitive as usual but are a cut below the conference's elite.

SAINTS IN THE DRAFT

C+

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Andrus Peat	T	6-7	313	Stanford
1.	Stephone Anthony	ILB	6-3	243	Clemson
2.	Hau'oli Kikaha	OLB	6-2	253	Washington
3.	Garrett Grayson	QB	6-2	213	Colorado State
3.	P.J. Williams	CB	6-0	194	Florida State
5.	Davis Tull	OLB	6-2	246	Chattanooga
5.	Tyeler Davison	T	6-2	316	Fresno State
5.	Damian Swann	CB	6-0	189	Georgia
7.	Marcus Murphy	RB	5-8	193	Missouri

The Saints wanted to improve their defense and used six of nine picks on defenders, the most they used on that side of the ball since the league went to a seven-round draft format in 1994. Stephone Anthony has the size and intensity Rob Ryan likes in his inside linebackers and could see the field early if he can master the defensive scheme. Hau'oli Kikaha will challenge Parys Haralson for the starting spot on the strong side and should see immediate snaps in sub-packages because of his stellar pass-rush skills. Andrus Peat is the eventual replacement for Zach Strief at right tackle and provides insurance at both tackle spots in case of injury. P.J. Williams and Damian Swann will compete with veteran Kyle Wilson for the starting nickel back position. Marcus Murphy will battle Jalen Saunders for the return specialist position.

Cooks: AP Photo/Aaron M. Sprecher; Peat: Peter Brouillet

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
9 Brees, Drew	QB	6-0	209	14	Purdue	FA-SD-06	D2-SD-01
4 Griffin, Ryan	QB	6-5	210	2	Tulane	FA-13	FA-NO-13
7 McCown, Luke	QB	6-4	217	11	Louisiana Tech	FA-Atl-13	D4-Cle-04
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
27 Baker, Edwin	RB	5-8	210	1	Michigan State	FA-14	D7-SD-12
34 Hightower, Tim	RB	6-0	220	4	Richmond	FA-15	D5-Ari-08
22 Ingram, Mark	RB	5-9	215	4	Alabama	D1b-11	D1b-NO-11
35 Johnson, Austin	FB	6-2	240	1	Tennessee	FA-13	FA-NO-13
41 Lorig, Erik	FB	6-4	250	5	Stanford	FA-TB-14	D7c-TB-10
44 Opurum, Toben	FB	6-1	250	1	Kansas	FA-14	FA-KC-13
29 Robinson, Khiry	RB	6-0	220	2	West Texas A&M	FA-13	FA-NO-13
28 Spiller, C.J.	RB	5-11	200	5	Clemson	FA-Buf-15	D1-Buf-10
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
81 Charles, Orson	TE	6-3	254	3	Georgia	FA-14	D4-Cin-12
16 Coleman, Brandon	WR	6-6	225	1	Rutgers	FA-14	FA-NO-14
12 Colston, Marques	WR	6-4	225	9	Hofstra	D7b-06	D7b-NO-06
10 Cooks, Brandin	WR	5-10	189	1	Oregon State	D1-14	D1-NO-14
89 Hill, Josh	TE	6-5	250	2	Idaho State	FA-13	FA-NO-13
15 Jones, Seantavius	WR	6-3	200	1	Valdosta State	FA-14	FA-NO-14
13 Morgan, Joe	WR	6-1	184	4	Walsh	FA-11	FA-NO-11
18 Saunders, Jalen	WR	5-9	165	1	Oklahoma	FA-14	D4-NYJ-14
83 Snead, Willie	WR	5-11	195	1	Ball State	FA-14	FA-Cle-14
14 Tanner, Andy	WR	6-0	183	1	Midwestern State	FA-10	FA-NO-10
88 Toon, Nick	WR	6-4	218	3	Wisconsin	D4-12	D4-NO-12
82 Watson, Benjamin	TE	6-3	255	11	Georgia	FA-Cle-13	D1-NE-04
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
72 Armstead, Terron	T	6-5	304	2	Ark.-Pine Bluff	D3a-13	D3a-NO-13
67 Becton, Nick	T	6-6	323	2	Virginia Tech	FA-14	FA-SD-13
73 Evans, Jahri	G	6-4	318	9	Bloomsburg	D4-06	D4-NO-06
66 Golic Jr., Mike	G	6-4	300	1	Notre Dame	FA-15	FA-Pit-13
79 Harris, Bryce	T	6-6	300	3	Fresno State	FA-12	FA-Atl-12
65 Kelemete, Senio	G	6-3	300	2	Washington	FA-13	D5-Ari-12
68 Lelito, Tim	C/G	6-4	315	2	Grand Valley St.	FA-13	FA-NO-13
69 Miller, Andrew	G	6-4	296	1	Virginia Tech	FA-14	FA-TB-14
74 Rooks, Tavon	T	6-5	300	1	Kansas State	D6-14	D6-NO-14
64 Strief, Zach	T	6-7	320	9	Northwestern	D7a-06	D7a-NO-06
60 Unger, Max	C	6-5	305	6	Oregon	T-Sea-15	D2-Sea-09
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
77 Bunkley, Brodrick	NT	6-2	306	9	Florida State	FA-Den-12	D1-Phi-06
97 Foster, Glenn	DE	6-4	285	2	Illinois	FA-13	FA-NO-13
76 Hicks, Akiem	DE	6-5	324	3	Regina	D3-12	D3-NO-12
92 Jenkins, John	NT	6-3	359	2	Georgia	D3b-13	D3b-NO-13
94 Jordan, Cameron	DE	6-4	287	4	California	D1a-11	D1a-NO-11
62 Virgil, Lawrence	NT	6-5	290	1	Valdosta State	FA-14	FA-NO-14
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
91 Edebali, Kasim	OLB	6-2	253	1	Boston College	FA-14	FA-NO-14
59 Ellerbe, Dannell	ILB	6-1	245	6	Georgia	T-Mia-15	FA-Bal-09
59 Franklin, Jerry	LB	6-1	245	2	Arkansas	FA-14	FA-Den-12
93 Galette, Junior	OLB	6-2	258	5	Stillman	FA-10	FA-NO-10
98 Haralson, Parys	OLB	6-0	255	9	Tennessee	T-SF-13	D5-SF-06
57 Hawthorne, David	ILB	6-0	246	7	TCU	FA-Sea-12	FA-Sea-08
53 Humber, Ramon	ILB	5-11	232	6	North Dakota St.	FA-10	FA-Ind-09
56 Powell, Ronald	OLB	6-3	237	1	Florida	D5b-14	D5b-NO-14
99 Spencer, Anthony	OLB	6-3	265	8	Purdue	FA-Dal-15	D1-Dal-07
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
40 Breaux, Delvin	DB	6-1	196	0	None	FA-15	FA-NO-15
39 Browner, Brandon	CB	6-4	221	5	Oregon State	FA-NE-15	FA-Den-05
25 Bush, Rafael	S	5-11	205	4	South Carolina St.	W-Den-12	FA-Atl-10
31 Byrd, Jairus	S	5-10	203	6	Oregon	FA-Buf-13	D2a-Buf-09
20 Dixon, Brian	CB	6-0	195	1	NW Missouri St.	FA-14	FA-NO-14
37 Frederick, Terrence	CB	5-10	187	1	Texas A&M	FA-13	D7-Pit-12
33 Jean-Baptiste, Stanley	CB	6-3	218	1	Nebraska	D2-14	D2-NO-14
28 Lewis, Keenan	CB	6-1	208	6	Oregon State	FA-Pit-13	D3c-Pit-09
38 Sanford, Jamarca	S	5-10	200	6	Ole Miss	FA-14	D7-Min-09
43 Sunseri, Vinnie	S	6-0	210	1	Alabama	D5a-14	D5a-NO-14
32 Vaccaro, Kenny	S	6-0	214	2	Texas	D1-13	D1-NO-13
42 Warren, Pierre	S	6-2	200	1	Jacksonville St.	FA-14	FA-NO-14
24 Wilson, Kyle	CB	5-10	190	5	Boise State	FA-NYJ-15	D1-NYJ-10
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
47 Drescher, Justin	LS	6-1	235	5	Colorado	FA-10	FA-Atl-10
3 Graham, Shayne	K	6-0	210	15	Virginia Tech	FA-13	FA-NO-00
5 Hopkins, Dustin	K	6-2	193	2	Florida State	FA-14	D6-Buf-13
6 Morstead, Thomas	P	6-4	235	6	SMU	D5-09	D5-NO-09

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	12	Marques Colston
	88	Nick Toon
WR	10	Brandin Cooks
	13	Joe Morgan
LT	72	Terron Armstead
		Andrus Peat (R)
LG	73	Jahri Evans
	65	Senio Kelemete
C	60	Max Unger
	68	Tim Lelito
RG	68	Tim Lelito
	69	Andrew Miller
RT	64	Zach Strief
		Andrus Peat (R)
TE	89	Josh Hill
	82	Ben Watson
QB	9	Drew Brees
	7	Luke McCown
FB	41	Erik Lorig
	35	Austin Johnson
RB	25	Mark Ingram
	28	C.J. Spiller

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	76	Akiem Hicks
	97	Glenn Foster
DT	77	Brodrick Bunkley
	92	John Jenkins
DE	94	Cameron Jordan
	97	Glenn Foster
OLB	98	Parys Haralson
		Hau'oli Kikaha (R)
ILB	59	Dannel Ellerbe
		Stephone Anthony (R)
ILB	57	David Hawthorne
	53	Ramon Humber
OLB	93	Junior Galette
	99	Anthony Spencer
CB	39	Brandon Browner
	24	Kyle Wilson
CB	28	Kennan Lewis
		P.J. Williams (R)
SS	32	Kenny Vaccaro
	25	Rafael Bush
FS	31	Jairus Byrd
	43	Vinnie Sunseri

SPECIALISTS

K	3	Shayne Graham	KR	Marcus Murphy (R)
P	6	Thomas Morstead	PR	Marcus Murphy (R)

SCOUTING THE SAINTS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP NEW ORLEANS "On paper, the Saints made a financial commitment for the 2014 season that was going to put them in position to challenge for a Super Bowl championship. Instead, they finished 7–9 and found themselves $30M over the salary cap heading into 2015. ... After all the contract angst about tight end Jimmy Graham last year, they traded him to Seattle on the eve of free agency for a first-round pick and center Max Unger. The offensive line still has guard Jahri Evans, and they drafted Stanford tackle Andrus Peat with the No. 13 overall selection. ... Wide receiver Kenny Stills was shipped to Miami and, from afar, it appears that he and Graham were not on the same page with the face of the franchise (Drew Brees). ... The defense hit rock bottom in nearly every statistical category, and it all began with the knee injury to Jairus Byrd after four games. ... The Rob Ryan scheme never generated the chaos needed to create fumbles and interceptions, and the Saints finished the year with a minus-13 turnover margin. ... If defensive end Cameron Jordan and outside linebacker Junior Galette can return to form, and Byrd and fellow safety Kenny Vaccaro bounce back from their injuries, with the addition of corner Brandon Browner to counter the big receivers in this division, New Orleans could bounce back in a big way in 2015."

2015 SCHEDULE

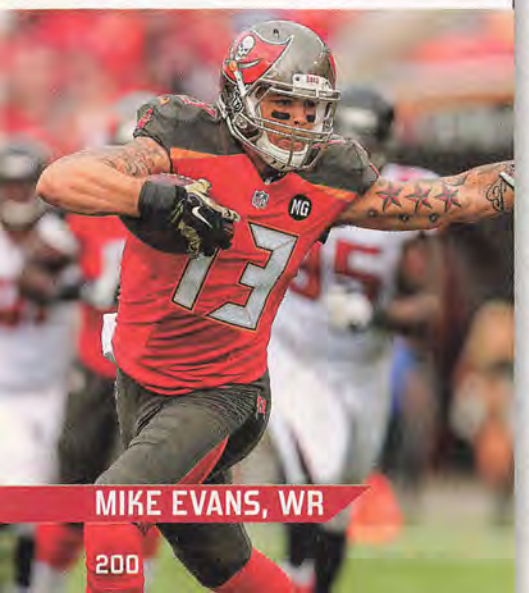
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	2014 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	at Arizona	4:05	11-5	319.8 (24)	368.2 (24)	19.4 (24)	18.7 (5)
2	Sept. 20	Tampa Bay	1:00	2-14	292.0 (30)	368.9 (25)	17.3 (29)	25.6 (25)
3	Sept. 27	at Carolina	1:00	7-8-1	346.7 (16)	339.8 (10)	21.2 (19)	23.4 (21)
4	Oct. 4	Dallas	8:30	12-4	383.6 (7)	355.1 (19)	29.2 (5)	22.0 (15)
5	Oct. 11	at Philadelphia	1:00	10-6	396.8 (5)	375.6 (28)	29.6 (3)	25.0 (22)
6	Oct. 15	Atlanta (Thu.)	8:25	6-10	378.2 (8)	398.3 (32)	23.8 (12)	26.1 (27)
7	Oct. 25	at Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	406.6 (3)	342.7 (11)	28.6 (6)	23.1 (19)
8	Nov. 1	N.Y. Giants	1:00	6-10	367.2 (10)	375.8 (29)	23.8 (13)	25.0 (22)
9	Nov. 8	Tennessee	1:00	2-14	303.7 (29)	373.0 (27)	15.9 (30)	27.4 (30)
10	Nov. 15	at Washington	1:00	4-12	358.6 (13)	357.0 (20)	18.8 (26)	27.4 (29)
11		BYE						
12	Nov. 29	at Houston	1:00	9-7	344.6 (17)	348.2 (16)	23.3 (14)	19.2 (7)
13	Dec. 6	Carolina	1:00	7-8-1	346.7 (16)	339.8 (10)	21.2 (19)	23.4 (21)
14	Dec. 13	at Tampa Bay	1:00	2-14	292.0 (30)	368.9 (25)	17.3 (29)	25.6 (25)
15	Dec. 21	Detroit (Mon.)	8:30	11-5	340.8 (19)	300.9 (2)	20.1 (22)	17.6 (2)
16	Dec. 27	Jacksonville	1:00	3-13	289.6 (31)	370.8 (26)	15.6 (32)	25.8 (26)
17	Jan. 3	at Atlanta	1:00	6-10	378.2 (8)	398.3 (32)	23.8 (12)	26.1 (27)

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Lovie Smith
RECORD WITH TEAM: 2–14
CAREER RECORD: 83–77
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dirk Koetter
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Leslie Frazier
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Kevin O'Dea
QUARTERBACKS: Mike Bajakian
RUNNING BACKS: Tim Spencer
WIDE RECEIVERS: Andrew Hayes-Stoker
TIGHT ENDS: Jon Embree
OFFENSIVE LINE: George Warhop
DEFENSIVE LINE: Joe Cullen
LINEBACKERS: Hardy Nickerson
CORNERBACKS: Gill Byrd
SAFETIES: Mikal Smith

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



MIKE EVANS, WR

4 NFC SOUTH FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/CEO: Malcolm Glazer
GENERAL MANAGER: Jason Licht
DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL: Jon Robinson
STADIUM: Raymond James Stadium (68,890)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.buccaneers.com
TICKETS: 813-879-2827
TRAINING CAMP: One Buccaneer Place (Tampa, Fla.)

The morning of the NFL Draft, Bucs general manager Jason Licht took a walk around the team's three practice fields completely at peace with the decision to select Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston with the No. 1 overall pick.

"It's like your wedding day," Licht says. "Without the cold feet."

For better or worse — and some would lean toward the latter — the Bucs' fortunes and those of Licht and coach Lovie Smith are married to Winston, one of the most polarizing picks in modern NFL Draft history. A civil suit stemming from allegations of a sexual assault for which Winston was never charged, along with a series of relatively minor acts of immaturity, follow the mercurial former Seminole to the NFL.

But the Bucs decision-makers are more than satisfied with Winston's character after doing research that included conducting exhaustive interviews of more than 75 people.

"If he wasn't a good guy, we wouldn't have used a first pick on him," Licht says.

On the field, Winston has few peers. He went 26–1 as a starting quarterback at Florida State, and he won the Heisman Trophy and a national championship.

"I would just ask our fans to give him a chance," Smith says.

OFFENSE The Bucs believe Winston is a transformational quarterback who will eventually put them on equal footing with the other gunslingers in the NFC South — the Saints' Drew Brees, the Falcons' Matt Ryan and the Panthers' Cam Newton.

Winston is a plug-and-play talent who comes from a pro-style offense. He can check protections, read the defense and get through all the progressions. Perhaps more impressive, Winston can make any throw on the field.

The key is whether the Bucs can find a way to protect him. Tampa Bay allowed 52 sacks last season, tied for the third-most in the NFL. That's why Licht invested a pair of second-round picks on Penn State left tackle Donovan Smith and guard Ali Marpet from Division III Hobart College. Both are projected to start as rookies. But the Bucs must get better performances from holdovers such as center Evan Dietrich-Smith, guard Logan Mankins and tackle Demar Dotson.

Winston does have 6'5" targets in Mike Evans and Vincent Jackson, a pair of 1,000-yard receivers. Evans was a Rookie of the Year candidate despite missing most of the offseason with a hamstring strain. He had a monster three-game stretch in November in which he caught 21 passes for 458 yards and five touchdowns. Second-year tight end Austin Seferian-Jenkins missed the final four games of 2014 with a back injury but shows the ability to get downfield. He caught 21 passes for 221 yards but is capable of much more.

The Bucs decided not to pick up the fifth-year option on running back Doug Martin, who has played only 17 games in the last two years after rushing for 1,454 yards and 11 touchdowns as a rookie. Martin doesn't seem to be versatile or physical enough to fit Smith's preference of running style, but at least he will be motivated in a contract year. The Bucs plan to increase the workload for Charles Sims, who missed the first half of his rookie season with an ankle injury. He showed more promise as pass catcher than runner. Licht attempted to upgrade the speed and athleticism on offense, beginning with the two linemen and Nebraska receiver Kenny Bell.

One of the biggest additions to the Bucs attack is offensive coordinator Dirk Koetter, who hung 56 points on Smith last season while operating the Falcons offense. Smith and the Bucs were dealt a setback with the loss of offensive coordinator Jeff Tedford, who never returned after a heart procedure, but Koetter is more than a stopgap replacement, and he has a spread-the-field passer in Winston like he had in Matt Ryan.

But make no mistake. The offense will develop as quickly as Winston does.

DEFENSE The Bucs struggled in the first year of Smith's Tampa 2 scheme. After six weeks, opponents were averaging 34 points per game. That prompted the beginning of an overhaul that will continue through 2015.

The foundation is defensive tackle Gerald McCoy, who led the team with 8.5 sacks, and linebacker Lavonte David, who has the distinction of being an All-Pro (2013) before making a Pro Bowl. McCoy needs help and got some with the waiver claim of Jacquies Smith, who had 6.5 sacks in seven starts last season. The Bucs traded a fifth-round pick to the Lions for defensive end George Johnson, giving them another edge rusher to complement McCoy.

Evans: Tom DiPace; Cheerleader: ASP Inc.; Winston: AP

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

STAY IN THE POCKET Of the two high-profile quarterbacks at the top of this year's draft, Mike Evans says he preferred Jameis Winston to Marcus Mariota because Winston delivers the ball from the pocket, even though Evans caught passes from scrambling quarterback Johnny Manziel while the two were at Texas A&M. "I did my time with a mobile quarterback, and that was fun," Evans says. "It was fun, it got me more opportunities for more balls on scramble routes and stuff like that. But in this league, it's tough to scramble. I think Jameis will be fine."

DANCING BEAR Rookie tackle Donovan Smith prides himself on his athleticism despite being 338 pounds, and his light feet earned an interesting description from his college coach, Penn State boss James Franklin. "He's like a dancing bear," Franklin says. "He played for us at up to 350 pounds. I think at one point he was 352, but he has really, really light feet. Based on his feet and his movement, you would never know that."

ONE MORE YARD Utah rookie wide receiver/kick returner Kaelin Clay led the FBS with four return touchdowns. But he may best be known for dropping the football a yard shy of the end zone on a long reception against Oregon. The Ducks returned the fumble for a touchdown to tie the game 7–7, a 14-point swing in a game that Oregon went on to win 51–27. Clay feels the incident made him mentally tougher. "Going back to that play, it was actually probably my favorite play," Clay told the Tampa media following his selection. "Things aren't always going to go the way you want them to go. It's how you get through adversity."

NEW BEGINNING Winston says he chose to wear jersey No. 3 with the Bucs because that was the first jersey number he ever wore, way back when he played for the Bessemer Tigers as a child. "I just look at it as a new beginning," Winston says. Also, add up No. 3 with No. 5 (his number at FSU) and you get No. 8 — his jersey number at Hueytown (Ala.) High School.

KEEP IT IN CHECK Lavonte David says a strong locker room will welcome Winston, but he may have to check his off-field antics. "We've got some veteran guys who could pull him to the side and make him understand that there's a role he has to play once he comes in, and sometimes you may have to tone that down," David says.

LAST TIME Bucs GM Jason Licht on the 2–14 season in 2014: "I'll never get over it. It'll be a driving force for years to come. I never want to go through that again."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
S	Chris Conte	Chicago
LB	Bruce Carter	Dallas
DT	Henry Melton	Dallas
DE	George Johnson	Detroit

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
DE	Adrian Clayborn	Atlanta
S	Dashon Goldson	Washington
LB	Mason Foster	Chicago
DE	Michael Johnson	Cincinnati
QB	Josh McCown	Cleveland

JAMEIS WINSTON, QB

2014 RESULTS (2-14)

Sept. 7	Carolina	L	14-20
Sept. 14	St. Louis	L	17-19
Sept. 18	at Atlanta	L	14-56
Sept. 28	at Pittsburgh	W	27-24
Oct. 5	at New Orleans (ot)	L	31-37
Oct. 12	Baltimore	L	17-48
Oct. 26	Minnesota (ot)	L	13-19
Nov. 2	at Cleveland	L	17-22
Nov. 9	Atlanta	L	17-27
Nov. 16	at Washington	W	27-7
Nov. 23	at Chicago	L	13-21
Nov. 30	Cincinnati	L	13-14
Dec. 7	at Detroit	L	17-34
Dec. 14	at Carolina	L	17-19
Dec. 21	Green Bay	L	3-20
Dec. 28	New Orleans	L	20-23

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Josh McCown	327	184	2,206	11	14
Mike Glennon	203	117	1,417	10	6
RUSHING	**ATT**		**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Doug Martin	134		494	3.7	2
Bobby Rainey	94		406	4.3	1
Charles Sims	66		185	2.8	1
RECEIVING	**REC**		**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Vincent Jackson	70		1,002	14.3	2
Mike Evans	68		1,051	15.5	12
Bobby Rainey	33		315	9.5	1
Louis Murphy	31		380	12.3	2
Brandon Myers	22		190	8.6	0

KICKING: Patrick Murray, 20-24 FGs, 31-31 PATs, 91 points
TACKLES: Lavonte David, 146; Danny Lansanah, 82
SACKS: Gerald McCoy, 8.5; Jacquies Smith, 6.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Johnthan Banks, 4; Danny Lansanah, 3

2014 STATS

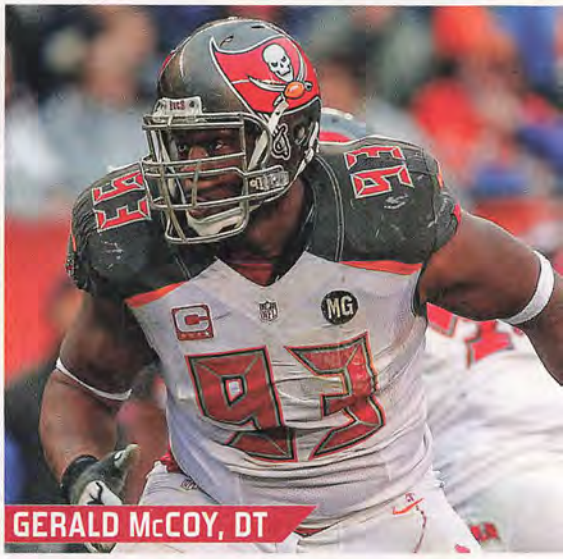
TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	292.0	30	16
Rushing	85.9	29	15
Passing	206.1	25	13
Scoring	17.3	29	16
Third Down %	37.4	25	14
Punt Returns	10.8	8	6
Kick Returns	22.8	20	10

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	368.9	25	11
Rushing	113.7	19	11
Passing	255.2	28	12
Scoring	25.6	25	12
Interceptions	14	T14	T8
Sacks	36	T21	T10
Turnover Differential	-8	T26	T13

The Bucs also changed their philosophy in free agency. They pulled off the Band Aid by cutting high-priced free agent busts — such as Michael Johnson after only one season — and replaced them on defense with players who have a history of success in Smith's defense or the Tampa 2 scheme.

Safety Chris Conte and defensive tackle Henry Melton both played for Smith in Chicago. Looking for more playmaking ability at middle linebacker, the Bucs signed former Cowboy Bruce Carter, who had five interceptions last season. They used a fourth-round pick on LSU linebacker Kwon Alexander, another run-and-hit machine with speed.

The secondary is solid with cornerbacks Alterraun Verner and Johnathan Banks. Banks led the team with four interceptions, and Verner, a former fourth-round pick of the Titans, was an under-the-radar free-agent acquisition last offseason. In addition to the rangy Conte, the Bucs believe the future is bright for strong safety Bradley McDougald, who took over following the trade of Mark Barron to the Rams.


GERALD McCOY, DT

SPECIALISTS Smith's teams in Chicago were known for winning games on special teams. That's hardly been the case in Tampa Bay, which struggled to settle on a kick returner. That's why they drafted Utah's Kaelin Clay, who had four returns for touchdowns last season to lead college football. The punt and kickoff return jobs are his to lose. Punter Michael Koenen is in the final year of his contract that pays him $3.75 million. But his pay didn't match his production as he ranked 29th with a 37.1-yard net average. The Bucs' placekicking game is solid behind Patrick Murray, who was 5-of-6 from 50-plus yards, including a long of 55. Overall, Murray made 20-of-24 field goals but is capable of more. The kick coverage teams should be improved with the addition of some athletic linebackers and receivers who have specialized as gunners such as Bell.

FINAL ANALYSIS Winston has the talent and confidence to be a frontrunner for Rookie of the Year. But until the Bucs improve around him, he won't be enough to make them real contenders in the NFC South. The season opener against the Titans and Marcus Mariota offers a juicy storyline. But Winston has to be dedicated on and off the field to make this gamble pay off.

BUCCANEERS IN THE DRAFT B-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Jameis Winston	QB	6-4	231	Florida State
2.	**Donovan Smith**	**OL**	**6-6**	**338**	**Penn State**
2.	Ali Marpet	OL	6-4	310	Hobart College
4.	Kwon Alexander	LB	6-1	227	LSU
5.	Kenny Bell	WR	6-1	197	Nebraska
6.	Kaelin Clay	WR	5-10	195	Utah
7.	Joey Iosefa	FB	6-0	247	Hawaii

As the No. 1 overall pick, Jameis Winston is clearly the centerpiece of the Bucs' plans moving forward. To put his importance in perspective, the Bucs have never had a quarterback taken in the first round who made it to a second contract, a list that includes Doug Williams, Steve Young, Vinny Testaverde, Trent Dilfer and Josh Freeman. Winston went 26–1 as a college starter and won the Heisman Trophy and a national title; he's more accomplished than Cam Newton when Newton entered the league. Donovan Smith and Ali Marpet will have to grow up with their quarterback. Kenny Bell and Kaelin Clay upgrade the speed on offense and the return game. Finally, as the only defensive player drafted in the Lovie Smith-Jason Licht era, Kwon Alexander will make a strong challenge to start at strong-side linebacker. It's another offense-heavy draft class, which is understandable, considering that the Bucs had the 30th-ranked offense in the league a year ago.

AP

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
8	Glennon, Mike	QB	6-6	225	2	NC State	D3-13	D3-TB-13
4	Lobato, Seth	QB	6-6	223	1	No. Colorado	FA-14	FA-Ind-14
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
25	James, Mike	RB	5-10	223	2	Miami	D6-13	D6-TB-13
46	Lane, Jorvorskie	FB	5-11	258	2	Texas A&M	FA-14	FA-Mia-12
22	Martin, Doug	RB	5-9	215	3	Boise State	D1b-12	D1b-TB-12
86	Ogbuehi, Emmanuel	FB	6-2	230	1	Georgia State	FA-15	FA-Was-13
43	Rainey, Bobby	RB	5-8	212	3	Western Kentucky	W-Cle-13	FA-Bal-12
34	Sims, Charles	RB	6-0	214	1	West Virginia	D3-14	D3-TB-14
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
84	Brate, Cameron	TE	6-5	235	1	Harvard	FA-14	FA-TB-14
13	Evans, Mike	WR	6-5	231	1	Texas A&M	D1-14	D1-TB-14
10	Herron, Robert	WR	5-9	193	1	Wyoming	D6-14	D6-TB-14
83	Jackson, Vincent	WR	6-5	230	10	No. Colorado	FA-SD-12	D2-SD-05
85	Jones, Chandler	WR	5-9	185	1	San Jose State	FA-14	FA-Cle-14
15	King, Tavarres	WR	6-1	210	2	Georgia	FA-14	D5-Den-13
18	Murphy, Louis	WR	6-2	200	6	Florida	FA-NYG-14	D4-Oak-09
82	Myers, Brandon	TE	6-3	256	6	Iowa	FA-NYG-14	D6b-Oak-09
11	Patton, Solomon	WR	5-9	177	1	Florida	FA-14	FA-TB-14
86	Rodriguez, Evan	TE	6-2	239	3	Temple	FA-14	D4-Chi-12
87	Seferian-Jenkins, Austin	TE	6-5	262	1	Washington	D2-14	D2-TB-14
89	Shepard, Russell	WR	6-1	195	2	LSU	W-Phi-13	FA-Phi-13
80	Sloat, Taylor	TE	6-4	235	1	UC-Davis	FA-14	FA-TB-14
88	Stocker, Luke	TE	6-5	253	4	Tennessee	D4-11	D4-TB-11
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
61	Allen, Josh	OL	6-3	315	1	UL Monroe	FA-14	FA-TB-14
62	Dietrich-Smith, Evan	C	6-2	308	5	Idaho State	FA-GB-14	FA-GB-09
69	Dotson, Demar	T	6-9	315	6	Southern Miss	FA-09	FA-TB-09
73	Edwards, Kadeem	G	6-4	313	1	Tennessee State	D5a-14	D5a-TB-14
79	Fragel, Reid	T	6-8	308	2	Ohio State	W-Atl-15	D7-Cin-13
72	Gilkey, Garrett	OL	6-6	315	2	Chadron State	W-Cle-14	D7-Cle-13
71	Gottschalk, Ben	C	6-5	293	1	SMU	FA-15	FA-KC-14
70	Mankins, Logan	G	6-4	308	10	Fresno State	T-NE-14	D1-NE-05
66	Omameh, Patrick	G	6-4	305	2	Michigan	FA-13	FA-SF-13
64	Pamphile, Kevin	T	6-5	315	1	Purdue	D5b-14	D5b-TB-14
78	Patchan, Matt	T	6-7	300	1	Boston College	FA-14	FA-TB-14
60	Warren, Jeremiah	OL	6-3	325	1	South Florida	W-Cle-14	FA-NE-12
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
57	English, Larry	DE	6-2	255	6	Northern Illinois	FA-14	D1-SD-09
96	Fatinikun, T.J.	DE	6-2	250	1	Toledo	FA-14	FA-TB-14
92	Gholston, William	DE	6-6	281	2	Michigan State	D4b-13	D4b-TB-13
94	Johnson, George	DE	6-4	263	3	Rutgers	T-Det-15	FA-TB-10
95	Masifilo, Matthew	DT	6-3	280	3	Stanford	FA-12	FA-SF-12
93	McCoy, Gerald	DT	6-4	300	5	Oklahoma	D1-10	D1-TB-10
98	McDonald, Clinton	DT	6-2	297	6	Memphis	FA-Sea-14	D7-Cin-09
90	Melton, Henry	DT	6-3	290	6	Texas	FA-Dal-15	D4a-Chi-09
56	Smith, Jacquies	DE	6-2	260	1	Missouri	W-Buf-14	FA-Mia-12
97	Spence, Akeem	DT	6-1	307	2	Illinois	D4a-13	D4a-TB-13
58	Uko, George	DE	6-3	284	1	USC	FA-14	FA-NO-14
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
50	Carter, Bruce	LB	6-2	240	4	North Carolina	FA-Dal-15	D2-Dal-11
54	David, Lavonte	LB	6-1	233	3	Nebraska	D2-12	D2-TB-12
53	Dean, Larry	LB	6-0	227	4	Valdosta State	FA-Buf-15	FA-Min-11
51	Lansanah, Danny	LB	6-1	255	3	Connecticut	FA-13	FA-GB-08
45	Lemon, Orie	LB	6-1	235	4	Oklahoma State	FA-14	FA-Dal-11
52	Williams, Jason	LB	6-1	245	6	Western Illinois	FA-14	D3-Dal-09
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
27	Banks, Johnthan	CB	6-2	185	2	Mississippi State	D2-13	D2-TB-13
23	Conte, Chris	S	6-2	203	4	California	FA-Chi-15	D3-Chi-11
39	Dixon, Brandon	CB	5-11	203	1	NW Missouri St.	FA-14	D6-NYJ-14
32	Frey, Isaiah	CB	6-0	190	2	Nevada	FA-14	D6-Chi-12
44	Jennings, M.D.	S	6-0	187	3	Arkansas State	FA-15	FA-GB-11
24	Jenkins, Mike	CB	5-10	197	7	South Florida	FA-Oak-14	D1b-Dal-08
29	Johnson, Leonard	CB	5-10	202	3	Iowa State	FA-12	FA-TB-12
32	Johnson, Shelton	S	6-0	195	1	Wisconsin	FA-14	FA-Oak-13
30	McDougald, Bradley	S	6-1	209	2	Kansas	W-KC-13	FA-KC-13
26	Moore, Sterling	CB	5-10	202	4	SMU	FA-Dal-15	FA-Oak-11
37	Tandy, Keith	S	5-10	205	3	West Virginia	D6-12	D6-TB-12
21	Verner, Alterraun	CB	5-10	186	5	UCLA	FA-Ten-14	D4-Ten-10
31	Wright, Major	S	5-11	204	5	Florida	FA-Chi-14	D3-Chi-10
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
48	DePaola, Andrew	LS	6-2	230	1	Rutgers	FA-14	FA-TB-12
9	Koenen, Michael	P	5-11	198	10	W. Washington	FA-Atl-11	FA-Atl-05
7	Murray, Patrick	K	5-7	160	1	Fordham	FA-14	FA-TB-14
6	Wilder, Andrew	P	6-3	205	0	Northern Arizona	FA-15	FA-TB-15

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	13	Mike Evans
	18	Louis Murphy
WR	83	Vincent Jackson
	80	Kenny Bell (R)
LT	76	Donovan Smith (R)
	69	Demar Dotson
LG	70	Logan Mankins
	66	Patrick Omameh
C	62	Evan Dietrich-Smith
	61	Josh Allen
RG	74	Ali Marpet (R)
	72	Garrett Gilkey
RT	64	Kevin Pamphile
	78	Matt Patchan
TE	87	Austin Seferian-Jenkins
	88	Luke Stocker
QB	3	Jameis Winston (R)
	8	Mike Glennon
FB	33	Joey Iosefa (R)
	46	Jorvorskie Lane
RB	22	Doug Martin
	34	Charles Sims

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	56	Jacquies Smith
	92	William Gholston
NT	98	Clinton McDonald
	97	Akeem Spence
DT	93	Gerald McCoy
	90	Henry Melton
DE	94	George Johnson
	57	Larry English
SLB	51	Danny Lansanah
	58	Kwon Alexander (R)
MLB	50	Bruce Carter
	51	Danny Lansanah
WLB	54	Lavonte David
	45	Orie Lemon
CB	21	Alterraun Verner
	24	Mike Jenkins
CB	27	Johnthan Banks
	29	Leonard Johnson
SS	30	Bradley McDougald
	31	Major Wright
FS	23	Chris Conte
	37	Keith Tandy

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Michael Koenen
P	7	Patrick Murray
KR	14	Kaelin Clay (R)
PR	14	Kaelin Clay (R)

SCOUTING THE BUCCANEERS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP TAMPA BAY "After a disastrous 2–14 campaign, veterans Josh McCown, Anthony Collins and Michael Johnson were released, and Tampa Bay appears ready to start over with top pick Jameis Winston as the central figure in the rebuilding efforts. ... He will have the ability to play 'above the rim' with oversized wide receivers Vincent Jackson and Mike Evans on the perimeter, but someone needs to emerge as a slot receiver, and the offensive line has to be better than last year's horrid group that contributed to the Bucs being 29th in rushing offense and tied for 29th in sacks allowed. ... Penn State tackle Donovan Smith and Hobart College guard Ali Marpet were both selected in the second round, so that's a start to constructing a pocket for Winston, who needs room to operate because of his leggy build and one-speed athleticism. ... Dirk Koetter is the new offensive coordinator, and he will be tasked to maximize the abilities of tight end Austin Seferian-Jenkins, who flashed as a rookie. ... Defensively, tackle Gerald McCoy and linebacker Lavonte David are Pro Bowl-caliber players, but no one else must be game-planned for by opponent offenses. ... The pass rush was not addressed in the draft, so George Johnson (trade with Lions) and Jacquies Smith will enter camp as the opening-day starters."

2015 SCHEDULE

					2014 NFL RANKINGS			
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	Tennessee	4:25	2-14	303.7 (29)	373.0 (27)	15.9 (30)	27.4 (30)
2	Sept. 20	at New Orleans	1:00	7-9	411.4 (1)	384.0 (31)	25.1 (9)	26.5 (28)
3	Sept. 27	at Houston	1:00	9-7	344.6 (17)	348.2 (16)	23.3 (14)	19.2 (7)
4	Oct. 4	Carolina	1:00	7-8-1	346.7 (16)	339.8 (10)	21.2 (19)	23.4 (21)
5	Oct. 11	Jacksonville	1:00	3-13	289.6 (31)	370.8 (26)	15.6 (32)	25.8 (26)
6		BYE						
7	Oct. 25	at Washington	1:00	4-12	358.6 (13)	357.0 (20)	18.8 (26)	27.4 (29)
8	Nov. 1	at Atlanta	1:00	6-10	378.2 (8)	398.3 (32)	23.8 (12)	26.1 (27)
9	Nov. 8	N.Y. Giants	4:05	6-10	367.2 (10)	375.8 (29)	23.8 (13)	25.0 (22)
10	Nov. 15	Dallas	1:00	12-4	383.6 (7)	355.1 (19)	29.2 (5)	22.0 (15)
11	Nov. 22	at Philadelphia	1:00	10-6	396.8 (5)	375.6 (28)	29.6 (3)	25.0 (22)
12	Nov. 29	at Indianapolis	1:00	11-5	406.6 (3)	342.7 (11)	28.6 (6)	23.1 (19)
13	Dec. 6	Atlanta	1:00	6-10	378.2 (8)	398.3 (32)	23.8 (12)	26.1 (27)
14	Dec. 13	New Orleans	1:00	7-9	411.4 (1)	384.0 (31)	25.1 (9)	26.5 (28)
15	Dec. 17	at St. Louis (Thu.)	8:25	6-10	314.7 (28)	351.6 (17)	20.3 (20)	22.1 (16)
16	Dec. 27	Chicago	1:00	5-11	327.1 (21)	377.1 (30)	19.9 (23)	27.6 (31)
17	Jan. 3	at Carolina	1:00	7-8-1	346.7 (16)	339.8 (10)	21.2 (19)	23.4 (21)

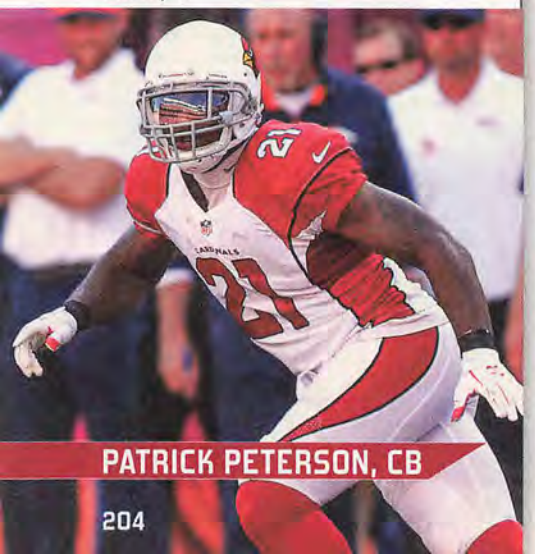
ARIZONA CARDINALS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Bruce Arians
RECORD WITH TEAM: 21–11
CAREER RECORD: 21–11
ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/OFFENSE: Tom Moore
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Harold Goodwin
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: James Bettcher
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Amos Jones
QUARTERBACKS: Freddie Kitchens
RUNNING BACKS: Stump Mitchell
WIDE RECEIVERS: Darryl Drake
TIGHT ENDS: Rick Christophel
OFFENSIVE LINE: Larry Zierlein
DEFENSIVE LINE: Brentson Buckner
LINEBACKERS: Bob Sanders
DEFENSIVE BACKS: Nick Rapone
CORNERBACKS: Kevin Ross

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs



PATRICK PETERSON, CB

2 NFC WEST FORECAST

There may not be a better general manager/head coach tandem in the NFL than what the Cardinals have with GM Steve Keim and coach Bruce Arians. In just two years, they've completely transformed the franchise, in terms of both perception and results. But the Cardinals are in a tricky place. Their window to win is small given the age (35) and injury history of quarterback Carson Palmer. Also, Larry Fitzgerald will be 32 when the season begins. Arizona suffered significant losses on defense in the offseason, the most notable being defensive coordinator Todd Bowles, who left to become the head coach of the New York Jets. Bowles' blitzing schemes were widely credited for Arizona's sum being better than its parts. Given those losses — and Palmer's knees — it's tempting to write off the Cardinals. But the Keim/Arians combo engenders more trust — and faith — than any front office in franchise history. Doubt them at your own risk.

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/CHAIRMAN: William V. Bidwill
PRESIDENT: Michael J. Bidwill
GENERAL MANAGER: Steve Keim
VP, PLAYER PERSONNEL: Terry McDonough
STADIUM: University of Phoenix Stadium (63,400)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.azcardinals.com
TICKETS: 602-379-0102
TRAINING CAMP: University of Phoenix Stadium (Glendale, Ariz.)

OFFENSE Arizona's offense comes with a big if: If Palmer can stay healthy, the Cardinals should be a productive if not particularly high-scoring offense. The drop-off from Palmer to back-up Drew Stanton is steep; Stanton simply isn't as accurate and doesn't throw the deep ball as well as Palmer.

Palmer isn't the most mobile of quarterbacks but shouldn't have to be given the resources the Cardinals have put into the offensive line. The addition of Pro Bowl guard Mike Iupati and the expected development of former first-round draft pick Jonathan Cooper should fortify what was a weakness last year, the interior of the line.

The line's improvement also should bode well for the Cardinals' running game, which took a hit last season when Andre Ellington went down with a knee injury in Week 1 and then was lost for the season in early December due to a hernia. When healthy, Ellington is a game-changer, capable of going long every time he touches the ball. Ellington's only drawback is his size. He's not built to carry the ball 20 to 25 times per game or thrive in short-yardage situations. The Cardinals hoped to land either Melvin Gordon or Todd Gurley in the draft to complement Ellington, but both were long gone by the team's 24th overall pick. Arizona needs either Stepfan Taylor or third-round pick David Johnson from Northern Iowa to step up and carry the ball 10 to 12 times per game. That would help keep Ellington fresh — and dangerous — over the course of the season.

If Palmer stays healthy — there's that "if" again — the wide receivers should be a strength. Fitzgerald was on pace for a 1,000-yard season in 2014 before Palmer got hurt; without the starting QB he was ineffective and sometimes ignored. Fitzgerald is no longer one of the NFL's elite receivers, but he can still be a productive No. 1 wideout for a playoff team. Michael Floyd is still too inconsistent heading into his fourth season — there are weeks he disappears — but he still had 841 yards and six touchdowns last year. Like Fitzgerald, he needs Palmer to stay upright. John Brown provides the deep threat. He averaged 14.5 yards per reception last year, his first in the league.

DEFENSE Talk about a unit that suffered some big losses. Bowles left to become a head coach. Defensive end Darnell Dockett, who missed the 2014 season with a knee injury but still was a team leader, signed as a free agent with San Francisco, and nose tackle Dan Williams joined the Oakland Raiders. Inside linebacker Larry Foote retired, and cornerback Antonio Cromartie joined Bowles with the Jets.

The biggest problem — besides losing Bowles' innovative mind — is the lack of an edge pass rusher. The Cardinals had just 35 sacks last year and didn't have a single player in double digits. The draft didn't provide any immediate help, so improvement will have to come from within. The onus falls on defensive end Calais Campbell to become a dominant player. He has his moments — he had seven sacks last year — but there are too many weeks where he's not a factor.

Williams' loss can't be overstated. He was playing at a Pro Bowl level late in the 2014 season, and no one on the current roster can duplicate his abilities. With the Cardinals also being vulnerable at inside linebacker with Foote's retirement, teams might be able to exploit Arizona up the middle in the run game. The Cardinals signed Sean Weatherspoon to replace Foote, but he's been injury-prone his entire career, only once playing a full 16-game season.

The strength of the defense will be the secondary, even with Cromartie's departure. Patrick Peterson had a rough 2014, but some of his issues can be attributed to the discovery that

Peterson: Tim Umphrey; Palmer, Cheerleader: Peter Brouillet

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

SHAQ ATTACK First-round pick D.J. Humphries has been compared to former NBA great Shaquille O'Neal not only because of his size — Humphries is 6'5" and 307 pounds — but also because of his outgoing personality. Humphries already has given himself a Shaq-like nickname: "Big Little Cactus."

A LIFER Few players spend an entire career with one team, but Larry Fitzgerald may be the exception. After months of speculation that Fitzgerald and the Cardinals wouldn't be able to agree on an extension that would provide the team cap relief, Fitzgerald signed a four-year deal (it voids after two years) that guarantees him $11 million over two years. Fitzgerald will be 34 when the deal expires.

ROAD GRADER One of the Cardinals' weaknesses in 2014 was their running game in short-yardage situations. Arizona felt it needed to get stronger along the interior of its offensive line, so it aggressively went after Mike Iupati in free agency, signing the former San Francisco 49er to a massive five-year, $40 million deal. Iupati has pass protection issues, but he can certainly clear a path in front of him.

HUGE INVESTMENT For years the Cardinals had one of the worst offensive lines in the league, in part because of poor draft decisions, but also because the team didn't invest in the position in free agency. But that's changed under general manager Steve Keim. Since Arizona drafted guard Jonathan Cooper with its first-round pick in 2013, it has spent nearly $100 million to bolster the line.

FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT Cornerback Patrick Peterson had a poor first half of the 2014 season — at least by his standards — but the reason became clear after season's end. Peterson divulged that he was diagnosed with diabetes, and it wasn't until October that he learned how to deal with the issue. The Cardinals expect Peterson to be back to his normal self this year.

VETERAN ADDITIONS The Cardinals took some low-risk gambles in free agency on linebackers Sean Weatherspoon and LaMarr Woodley. Weatherspoon has been hurt much of his career and didn't play in 2014, while Woodley didn't have a sack in six games with Oakland.

WHO'S IN CHARGE The Cardinals lost two of their defensive leaders when defensive end Darnell Dockett and cornerback Antonio Cromartie signed with San Francisco and the N.Y. Jets, respectively. Arizona wants seven-year veteran Calais Campbell not only to be more consistent but also to take the leadership baton from Dockett.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
G	Mike Iupati	San Francisco
DT	Corey Peters	Atlanta
DE	Cory Redding	Indianapolis
C	A.Q. Shipley	Indianapolis
LB	Sean Weatherspoon	Atlanta
LB	LaMarr Woodley	Oakland

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
LB	Sam Acho	Chicago
CB	Antonio Cromartie	N.Y. Jets
DE	Darnell Dockett	San Francisco
LB	Larry Foote	Retired
C	Lyle Sendlein	Unsigned
NT	Dan Williams	Oakland

CARSON PALMER, QB

2014 RESULTS (11-5)

Sept. 8	San Diego	W	18-17
Sept. 14	at N.Y. Giants	W	25-14
Sept. 21	San Francisco	W	23-14
Oct. 5	at Denver	L	20-41
Oct. 12	Washington	W	30-20
Oct. 19	at Oakland	W	24-13
Oct. 26	Philadelphia	W	24-20
Nov. 2	at Dallas	W	28-17
Nov. 9	St. Louis	W	31-14
Nov. 16	Detroit	W	14-6
Nov. 23	at Seattle	L	3-19
Nov. 30	at Atlanta	L	18-29
Dec. 7	Kansas City	W	17-14
Dec. 11	at St. Louis	W	12-6
Dec. 21	Seattle	L	6-35
Dec. 28	at San Francisco	L	17-20
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 3	at Carolina	L	16-27

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

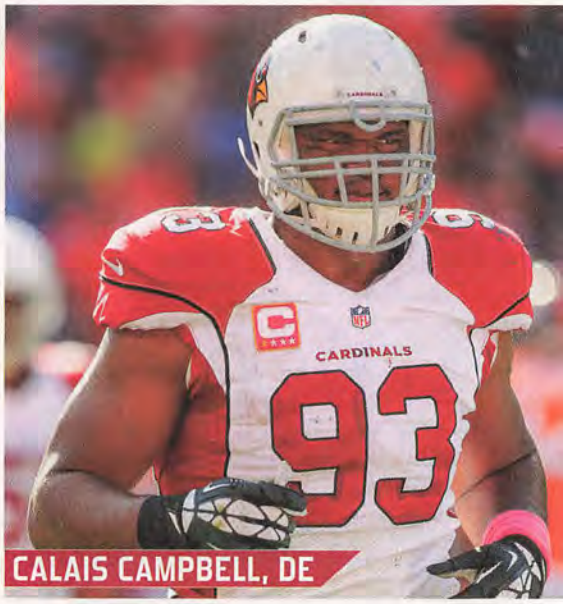
PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Drew Stanton	240	132	1,711	7	5
Carson Palmer	224	141	1,626	11	3
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Andre Ellington	201	660	3.3	3	
Stepfan Taylor	63	208	3.3	1	
Kerwynn Williams	53	246	4.6	0	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Larry Fitzgerald	63	784	12.4	2	
John Brown	48	696	14.5	5	
Michael Floyd	47	841	17.9	6	
Andre Ellington	46	395	8.6	2	
John Carlson	33	350	10.6	1	

KICKING: Chandler Catanzaro, 29-33 FGs, 27-27 PATs, 114 points
TACKLES: Rashad Johnson, 92; Two players tied with 83
SACKS: Alex Okafor, 8.0; Calais Campbell, 7.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Rashad Johnson, 4; Three players tied with 3

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	319.8	24	13
Rushing	81.8	31	16
Passing	238.0	14	8
Scoring	19.4	24	13
Third Down %	40.2	16	10
Punt Returns	10.7	9	7
Kick Returns	19.0	32	16
TEAM DEFENSE	**Stat**	**NFL Rank**	**NFC Rank**
Total	368.2	24	10
Rushing	108.7	13	6
Passing	259.5	29	13
Scoring	18.7	5	3
Interceptions	18	T7	T3
Sacks	35	24	13
Turnover Differential	+8	5	3

he has diabetes. Assuming he has the disease under control, he should revert back to being one of the best corners in the game. Arizona also believes Justin Bethel, who's been a special-teams demon, and Jerraud Powers can more than make up for Cromartie's absence. Arizona could have one of the best safety tandems in the league with Tyrann Mathieu and Deone Bucannon. Mathieu is a ball hawk who also will light up receivers, and Bucannon excels against the run. He's also an effective pass rusher, particularly when the Cardinals blitz.



CALAIS CAMPBELL, DE

SPECIALISTS The Cardinals' kicking game is in good hands. The same can't be said yet for the kick returners. Placekicker Chandler Catanzaro had a brilliant rookie season, making 29-of-33 field-goal attempts, including 12-of-14 from 40 yards plus. He could find his way to the Pro Bowl at some point in the near future. Punter Dave Zastudil should be back after a 2014 season that was lost to a nagging groin injury. He led the league in punts inside the 20 in 2013 and '12. Arizona needs to find someone who can give its return game some pop. Peterson could return punts, but the Cardinals are hesitant to let such a valuable every-down player expose himself to injury on special teams. Look for rookie receiver J.J. Nelson to get a shot. Nelson averaged 38.3 yards per kickoff return for UAB his senior year and was the national leader in combined kick returns (kickoffs and punts).

FINAL ANALYSIS The Cardinals finished 11–5 last year despite Palmer being lost for the season in early November with a torn ACL and Ellington never being healthy all year. Palmer, whose quarterback rating was 95.6 (the second-highest mark of his career) at the time of his injury, makes Arizona's offense go; receivers Fitzgerald and Brown in particular were much more effective when he was behind center.

If there's a concern, it's the defense. Arizona lost key contributors at every level, from Dockett to Foote to Cromartie. The Cardinals still don't have a great edge pass rusher, and they have no idea if or when inside linebacker Daryl Washington will return from his league-imposed suspension. But if Arizona can figure out a way to be just average on defense, the offense should be good enough for another double-digit win season and a shot at supplanting Seattle atop the NFC West.

DRAFT 2015 CARDINALS IN THE DRAFT C

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	D.J. Humphries	OT	6-5	307	Florida
2.	Markus Golden	OLB	6-2	260	Missouri
3.	David Johnson	RB	6-1	224	Northern Iowa
4.	Rodney Gunter	DT	6-5	305	Delaware State
5.	Shaquille Riddick	DE	6-6	242	West Virginia
5.	J.J. Nelson	WR	5-10	156	UAB
6.	Gerald Christian	TE	6-3	244	Louisville

The Cardinals couldn't get a pass rusher or elite running back with their first-round pick, so their draft class may not have a big immediate impact. D.J. Humphries will compete for the right tackle job, but there's no guarantee he'll start. Arizona does have a need for an outside edge rusher, but Markus Golden has to make the switch from defensive end to linebacker, and some considered him a mid-round selection. David Johnson might play the most of the rookies; Arizona needed a big back to complement Andre Ellington, and Johnson could get the ball in short-yardage and goal-line situations. The Cardinals traded up to pick Gunter, who didn't play football in high school, in the fourth round. Shaquille Riddick was a one-year player at West Virginia after transferring from Gardner-Webb. J.J. Nelson, who ran a 4.28 at the Combine, could make the team as a kick returner. Gerald Christian was this draft's Mr. Irrelevant, the 256th and last pick.

Campbell: Tim Umphrey; Humphries: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
4 Harnish, Chandler	QB	6-2	222	1	Northern Illinois	FA-15	D7-Ind-12
3 Palmer, Carson	QB	6-5	235	12	USC	T-Oak-13	D1-Cin-03
5 Stanton, Drew	QB	6-3	243	8	Michigan State	FA-Ind-13	D2a-Det-07
6 Thomas, Logan	QB	6-6	250	1	Virginia Tech	D4-14	D4-Ari-14

RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
34 Bauman, Zach	RB	5-10	200	1	Northern Arizona	FA-14	FA-Ari-14
38 Ellington, Andre	RB	5-9	199	2	Clemson	D6b-13	D6b-Ari-13
23 Grice, Marion	RB	6-0	208	1	Arizona State	FA-14	D6-SD-14
39 Hughes, Robert	RB	5-11	235	2	Notre Dame	FA-13	FA-Chi-11
30 Taylor, Stepfan	RB	5-9	216	2	Stanford	D5-13	D5-Ari-13
33 Williams, Kerwynn	RB	5-8	198	1	Utah State	FA-14	D7-Ind-13

RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
13 Brown, Jaron	WR	6-2	205	2	Clemson	FA-13	FA-Ari-13
12 Brown, John	WR	5-11	179	1	Pittsburg State	D3b-14	D3b-Ari-14
85 Fells, Darren	TE	6-7	281	1	UC Irvine	FA-13	FA-Sea-13
11 Fitzgerald, Larry	WR	6-3	218	11	Pittsburgh	D1-04	D1-Ari-04
15 Floyd, Michael	WR	6-2	220	3	Notre Dame	D1-12	D1-Ari-12
10 Golden, Brittan	WR	5-11	186	2	West Texas A&M	FA-13	FA-Chi-12
80 Hardy, Andre	TE	6-6	245	1	Cal State Fullerton	FA-14	FA-Oak-12
17 Harvey, Travis	WR	6-2	185	1	Florida A&M	FA-14	FA-Ten-13
87 Niklas, Troy	TE	6-6	270	1	Notre Dame	D2-14	D2-Ari-14
80 Momah, Ifeanyi	TE	6-7	248	1	Boston College	FA-15	FA-Phi-13
14 Slaughter, Nathan	WR	5-10	185	1	West Texas A&M	FA-15	FA-Hou-14
86 Spadola, Ryan	WR	6-1	205	2	Lehigh	FA-14	FA-NYJ-13

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
61 Cooper, Jonathan	G	6-2	311	2	North Carolina	D1-13	D1-Ari-13
75 Fullington, John	G	6-5	300	1	Washington State	FA-14	FA-GB-14
76 Iupati, Mike	G	6-5	331	5	Idaho	FA-SF-15	D1b-SF-10
62 Larsen, Ted	G/C	6-2	305	5	NC State	FA-TB-14	D6-NE-10
70 Massie, Bobby	T	6-6	316	3	Ole Miss	D4-12	D4-Ari-12
69 Palmer, Kelvin	T	6-4	290	1	Baylor	FA-14	FA-Ari-14
65 Rooks, Tavon	T	6-5	300	1	Kansas State	FA-15	D6-NO-14
53 Shipley, A.Q.	C	6-1	307	3	Penn State	FA-Ind-15	D7-Pit-09
79 Sowell, Bradley	T	6-7	315	3	Ole Miss	W-Ind-13	FA-TB-12
71 Steen, Anthony	G/C	6-3	309	1	Alabama	FA-14	FA-Ari-14
68 Veldheer, Jared	T	6-8	321	5	Hillsdale	FA-Oak-14	D3-Oak-10
78 Watford, Earl	G	6-3	300	2	James Madison	D4b-13	D4b-Ari-13

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
93 Campbell, Calais	DE	6-8	300	7	Miami	D2-08	D2-Ari-08
96 Martin, Kareem	DE	6-6	272	1	North Carolina	D3a-14	D3a-Ari-14
73 Mauro, Josh	DE	6-6	282	1	Stanford	FA-14	FA-Pit-14
98 Peters, Corey	DT	6-3	305	5	Kentucky	FA-Atl-15	D3a-Atl-10
90 Redding, Cory	DE	6-4	318	12	Texas	FA-Ind-15	D3-Det-03
92 Rucker, Frostee	DE	6-3	280	9	USC	FA-Cin-13	D3-Cin-06
72 Stinson, Ed	DT	6-4	287	1	Alabama	D5-14	D5-Ari-14
66 Ta'amu, Alameda	NT	6-3	348	3	Washington	W-Pit-13	D4-Pit-12

LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
97 Alexander, Lorenzo	LB	6-1	244	8	California	FA-Was-13	FA-Car-05
56 Carson, Glenn	LB	6-3	235	1	Penn State	FA-14	FA-Ari-14
54 Demens, Kenny	LB	6-1	242	1	Michigan	FA-13	FA-Ari-13
51 Minter, Kevin	LB	6-0	246	2	LSU	D2-13	D2-Ari-13
57 Okafor, Alex	LB	6-4	261	2	Texas	D4a-13	D4a-Ari-13
91 Shaughnessy, Matt	LB	6-5	285	6	Wisconsin	FA-Oak-13	D3-Oak-09
55 Weatherspoon, Sean	LB	6-2	244	5	Missouri	FA-Atl-15	D1-Atl-10
52 Woodley, LaMarr	LB	6-2	265	8	Michigan	FA-Oak-15	D2-Pit-07

DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
28 Bethel, Justin	CB	6-0	200	3	Presbyterian	D6a-12	D6a-Ari-12
20 Bucannon, Deone	S	6-1	211	1	Washington State	D1-14	D1-Ari-14
Dennard, Alfonzo	CB	5-10	200	3	Nebraska	FA-NE-15	D7a-NE-12
22 Jefferson, Tony	S	5-11	212	2	Oklahoma	FA-13	FA-Ari-13
26 Johnson, Rashad	S	5-11	204	6	Alabama	D3-09	D3-Ari-09
46 Legree, Jimmy	CB	6-0	187	1	South Carolina	FA-14	FA-Sea-14
32 Mathieu, Tyrann	S	5-9	186	2	LSU	D3-13	D3-Ari-13
21 Peterson, Patrick	CB	6-1	219	4	LSU	D1-11	D1-Ari-11
25 Powers, Jerraud	CB	5-10	187	6	Auburn	FA-Ind-13	D3-Ind-09
42 Smith, Damond	CB	5-11	184	1	South Alabama	FA-15	FA-KC-14
37 Weaver, Ross	CB	6-1	206	1	Michigan State	FA-14	FA-Mia-10
41 Whitley, Eddie	CB	6-0	191	1	Virginia Tech	FA-14	FA-Dal-12
27 Woodard, Darren	CB	5-11	175	1	UTEP	FA-14	FA-StL-13

SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
2 Butler, Drew	P	6-1	217	2	Georgia	FA-14	FA-Pit-12
7 Catanzaro, Chandler	K	6-3	200	1	Clemson	FA-14	FA-Ari-14
82 Leach, Mike	LS	6-2	235	15	William & Mary	FA-09	FA-Ten-00
9 Zastudil, Dave	P	6-3	220	13	Ohio	FA-11	D4-Bal-02

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	11	Larry Fitzgerald
	12	John Brown
WR	15	Michael Floyd
	13	Jaron Brown
WR	12	John Brown
	10	Brittan Golden
LT	68	Jared Veldheer
	65	Tavon Rooks
LG	76	Mike Iupati
	78	Earl Watford
C	53	A.Q. Shipley
	62	Ted Larsen
RG	61	Jonathan Cooper
	78	Earl Watford
RT	70	Bobby Massie
	74	D.J. Humphries (R)
TE	87	Troy Niklas
	85	Darren Fells
QB	3	Carson Palmer
	5	Drew Stanton
RB	38	Andre Ellington
	30	Stepfan Taylor

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	93	Calais Campbell
	96	Kareem Martin
NT	66	Alameda Ta'amu
	98	Corey Peters
DE	92	Frostee Rucker
	90	Cory Redding
OLB	57	Alex Okafor
	97	Lorenzo Alexander
ILB	54	Kenny Demens
	55	Sean Weatherspoon
ILB	51	Kevin Minter
	56	Glenn Carson
OLB	91	Matt Shaughnessy
	44	Markus Golden (R)
CB	21	Patrick Peterson
	28	Justin Bethel
CB	25	Jerraud Powers
		Alfonzo Dennard
SS	20	Deone Bucannon
	22	Tony Jefferson
FS	32	Tyrann Mathieu
	26	Rashad Johnson

SPECIALISTS

K	7	Chandler Catanzaro
P	9	Dave Zastudil
KR		J.J. Nelson (R)
PR		J.J. Nelson (R)

SCOUTING THE CARDINALS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP ARIZONA

"Bruce Arians has an ability to tap into the mentality of pro players, and they have responded to his approach in a big way. ... If Carson Palmer can come back healthy, their passing game should pick up where it left off before his injury. ... Larry Fitzgerald is on the back-nine of his career, but between him, Michael Floyd and John Brown, they have an excellent combination of styles and ability. ... They drafted Florida offensive tackle D.J. Humphries in the first round and plan to insert him into the lineup right away. ... Arians is very high on running back Andre Ellington, but there were lots of doubts he could be the lead pony, and it proved to be true when he ran for only 660 yards. He did catch 46 passes. ... Left tackle Jared Veldheer was a solid addition in free agency last year, and the Cardinals hope left guard Mike Iupati (49ers) can do the same this year. He is a power player all the way and can help them improve their run game. ... Defensive coordinator Todd Bowles parlayed the Cardinals' defensive success into the head coaching job with the Jets, so James Bettcher takes over the role. ... Arizona is based in a 3-4, but they love to play their 'big' nickel/three-safety package. ... The window for winning is closing with an aging Palmer, so there is palpable urgency inside the building to make a huge push in 2015."

2015 SCHEDULE

Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	2014 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	New Orleans	4:05	7-9	411.4 (1)	384.0 (31)	25.1 (9)	26.5 (28)
2	Sept. 20	at Chicago	1:00	5-11	327.1 (21)	377.1 (30)	19.9 (23)	27.6 (31)
3	Sept. 27	San Francisco	4:05	8-8	327.4 (20)	321.4 (5)	19.1 (25)	21.3 (10)
4	Oct. 4	St. Louis	4:25	6-10	314.7 (28)	351.6 (17)	20.3 (20)	22.1 (16)
5	Oct. 11	at Detroit	4:05	11-5	340.8 (19)	300.9 (2)	20.1 (22)	17.6 (2)
6	Oct. 18	at Pittsburgh	1:00	11-5	411.1 (2)	353.4 (18)	27.3 (7)	23.0 (18)
7	Oct. 26	Baltimore (Mon.)	8:30	10-6	364.9 (12)	336.9 (8)	25.6 (8)	18.9 (6)
8	Nov. 1	at Cleveland	1:00	7-9	324.6 (23)	366.1 (23)	18.7 (27)	21.1 (9)
9		BYE						
10	Nov. 15	at Seattle	8:30	12-4	375.8 (9)	267.1 (1)	24.6 (10)	15.9 (1)
11	Nov. 22	Cincinnati	4:05	10-5-1	348.0 (15)	359.3 (22)	22.8 (15)	21.5 (12)
12	Nov. 29	at San Francisco	4:05	8-8	327.4 (20)	321.4 (5)	19.1 (25)	21.3 (10)
13	Dec. 6	at St. Louis	1:00	6-10	314.7 (28)	351.6 (17)	20.3 (20)	22.1 (16)
14	Dec. 10	Minnesota (Thu.)	8:25	7-9	315.5 (27)	344.7 (14)	20.3 (21)	21.4 (11)
15	Dec. 20	at Philadelphia	1:00	10-6	396.8 (5)	375.6 (28)	29.6 (3)	25.0 (22)
16	Dec. 27	Green Bay	4:25	12-4	386.1 (6)	346.4 (15)	30.4 (1)	21.8 (13)
17	Jan. 3	Seattle	4:25	12-4	375.8 (9)	267.1 (1)	24.6 (10)	15.9 (1)

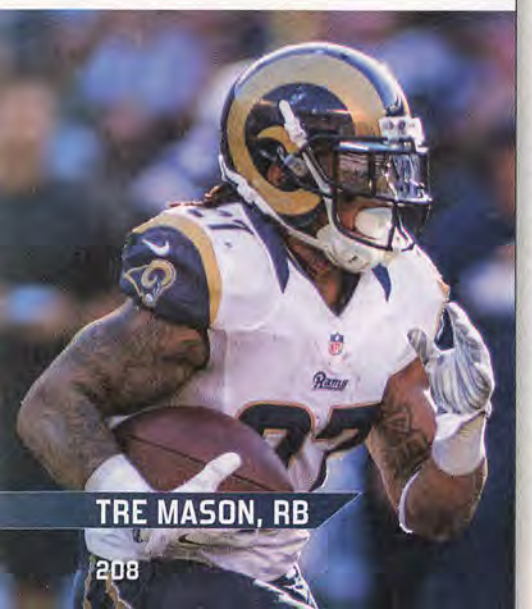
ST. LOUIS RAMS

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Jeff Fisher
RECORD WITH TEAM: 20–27–1
CAREER RECORD: 162–147–1
ASSISTANT HEAD COACH: Dave McGinnis
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Frank Cignetti Jr.
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Gregg Williams
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: John Fassel
QUARTERBACKS: Chris Weinke
RUNNING BACKS: Ben Sirmans
WIDE RECEIVERS: Ray Sherman
TIGHT ENDS: Rob Boras
OFFENSIVE LINE: Paul T. Boudreau
DEFENSIVE LINE: Mike Waufle
LINEBACKERS: Frank Bush
DEFENSIVE BACKS: Chuck Cecil

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2010	7
2011	2
2012	7
2013	7
2014	6



TRE MASON, RB

3 NFC WEST FORECAST

Coach Jeff Fisher and general manager Les Snead walked into a mess in 2012, inheriting a franchise that lost 65 of 80 games from 2007-11 — an NFL record for futility over a five-year span.

They brought the team back to respectability immediately with a 7–8–1 record in 2012. But as they enter their fourth season in St. Louis, the Rams haven't been able to get over the hump despite harvesting a bounty of draft picks in the RGIII trade. In fact, they've backslid a bit each season, going 7–9 in 2013 and 6–10 in '14.

After three consecutive years of entering the season as the youngest team in the league, that won't be the case this season. St. Louis has a roster full of young veterans who should be approaching their primes.

The Rams can no longer blame their woes on injuries to quarterback Sam Bradford. He was traded. So with a defense that should be formidable, there really are no excuses this season. It's win or go home.

THE ORGANIZATION

OWNER/CHAIRMAN: E. Stanley Kroenke
OWNER/VICE-CHAIRMAN: Chip Rosenbloom
EXECUTIVE VP OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS/COO: Kevin Demoff
GENERAL MANAGER: Les Snead
STADIUM: Edward Jones Dome (66,965)
SURFACE: AstroTurf
WEBSITE: www.stlouisrams.com
TICKETS: 314-425-8830
TRAINING CAMP: Russell Athletic Training Center (Earth City, Mo.)

OFFENSE After weeks of hearing Fisher and Snead utter variations of "Sam's our guy," Bradford was unceremoniously shipped off to Philadelphia for Nick Foles in a surprising trade that also included an exchange of draft picks. Foles' arrival is just part of a massive facelift on offense. The Rams also have a new offensive coordinator in Frank Cignetti and a new quarterbacks coach in Chris Weinke. They will have a new feature back in Todd Gurley and an overhauled offensive line.

Cignetti promises to streamline the playbook and simplify the play-calling. But the overall theory will remain the same for a Fisher-coached team: The Rams want to run the football, be physical and mix in the play-action pass. After a so-so 2014 season in Philadelphia that was over by midseason because of a broken collarbone, Foles will try to recapture some of the magic he displayed in 2013, when he threw 27 touchdowns with just two interceptions and had success throwing the deep ball.

A strong running game would obviously helps Foles out, and the hope around Rams Park is that Gurley is ready sooner rather than later as he completes his rehab from a November knee injury and subsequent surgery at Georgia. A healthy Gurley can be a game-changer, and paired with speedy Tre Mason — last year's Rams rushing leader as a rookie — St. Louis has the makings of a formidable one-two backfield punch.

The receiving corps returns intact — all five wideouts from the '14 squad and all four tight ends. In terms of continuity, that's a luxury few teams have. Kenny Britt and Brian Quick will provide big targets as the starting wide receivers, and once again the theme for Tavon Austin is to get more involved in the offense. We'll see if Cignetti can accomplish what predecessor Brian Schottenheimer couldn't on that front.

The key question comes on the offensive line, where the Rams are inexperienced and could have as many as three linemen making their first NFL starts to open 2015.

DEFENSE With the exception of a December meltdown against Odell Beckham Jr. and the Giants, the Rams had one of the league's elite defenses over the second half of 2014. There's no reason to believe they can't pick up where they left off. Defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, entering his second season with the club, knows his players and how to use them.

Basically the entire defense is back: Seven of the top nine defensive linemen from a year ago return, as do all three starting linebackers. All 11 defensive backs who were under contract at the end of 2014 remain under contract.

In short, the Rams could be formidable on this side off the ball. Robert Quinn and Chris Long are the bookends at end in the team's 4-3 alignment. Reigning NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year Aaron Donald provides a disruptive force at tackle with his quickness and savvy. Free-agent pickup Nick Fairley gives the Rams five first-round draft picks on their defensive front. If motivated and healthy, the former Detroit defensive tackle provides another playmaking presence in the trenches.

The addition of Akeem Ayers at outside linebacker gives the Rams yet another pass-rushing option; it will be interesting to see what packages Williams cooks up for him. James Laurinaitis is as steady as it gets in the middle. Alec Ogletree on the weak side has shown pursuit and playmaking ability in his first two NFL seasons but needs to get out of the gate quicker to start the season.

The strength of the secondary is the McSafeties — strong safety T.J. McDonald and free safety Rodney McLeod. McDonald is a thumper in the box; McLeod was much improved in

Mason, Quinn: Peter Brouillet; Cheerleader: Mark J. Rebilas-USA TODAY Sports

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

GANG'S ALL HERE It's not unusual in a normal offseason for a team to turn over a quarter or a third of its roster. But the Rams came out of draft weekend with 49 of the 60 players from their 2014 season — a whopping 80 percent — still on their roster. That total of 60 players includes 53 players on the active roster and seven players on injured reserve at the end of '14. Other than the offensive line and quarterback, the team is returning virtually intact.

KUNG FU FIGHTING Always trying to improve his game, defensive tackle Michael Brockers has been doing martial arts training this offseason — and with none other than former Dallas Cowboys star Randy White. Brockers is trying to improve not only the use of his hands in fending off blockers but also his balance and footwork.

FAMILY TRADITION Seventh-round draft pick Bryce Hager is the son of Britt Hager, who played linebacker for the Rams in 1997 under Dick Vermeil. Current Rams coach Jeff Fisher was defensive coordinator in Philadelphia in 1989 when the Eagles drafted Britt — on Fisher's recommendation.

GETTING OFFENSIVE In his 19 previous drafts as an NFL head coach, dating all the way back to the Houston Oilers in 1995, Fisher had never started a draft by picking three offensive players in a row. Fisher, a former NFL safety and defensive coordinator, went way beyond that this year, selecting offensive players with the first seven picks of the Rams' draft.

YIKES That was running back Zac Stacy's one-word response on Twitter to the surprise selection of Todd Gurley at No. 10 overall. The addition of Gurley pushed Stacy to fourth string on the depth chart. He asked to be traded or released, and got his wish on Day 3 of the draft with a trade that sent him to the New York Jets. Gurley has taken jersey No. 30 (Stacy's old number) in St. Louis.

L.A. RAMS? With owner Stan Kroenke seemingly intent on moving the team to Los Angeles in 2016, this could be the last season for the Rams in St. Louis. Fisher says it won't be a distraction for the team in '15, but we'll see. The first casualty could be home-field advantage at the Edward Jones Dome, what with the possibility of disgruntled fans staying at home.

SEATTLE AGAIN? The Rams have had to make the long trek to the Pacific Northwest for a season-ending game in Seattle in four of the past five seasons, but not in 2015. The bad news? They must make back-to-back West Coast trips to close out the year — playing at Seattle for Game 15 and at San Francisco for Game 16.

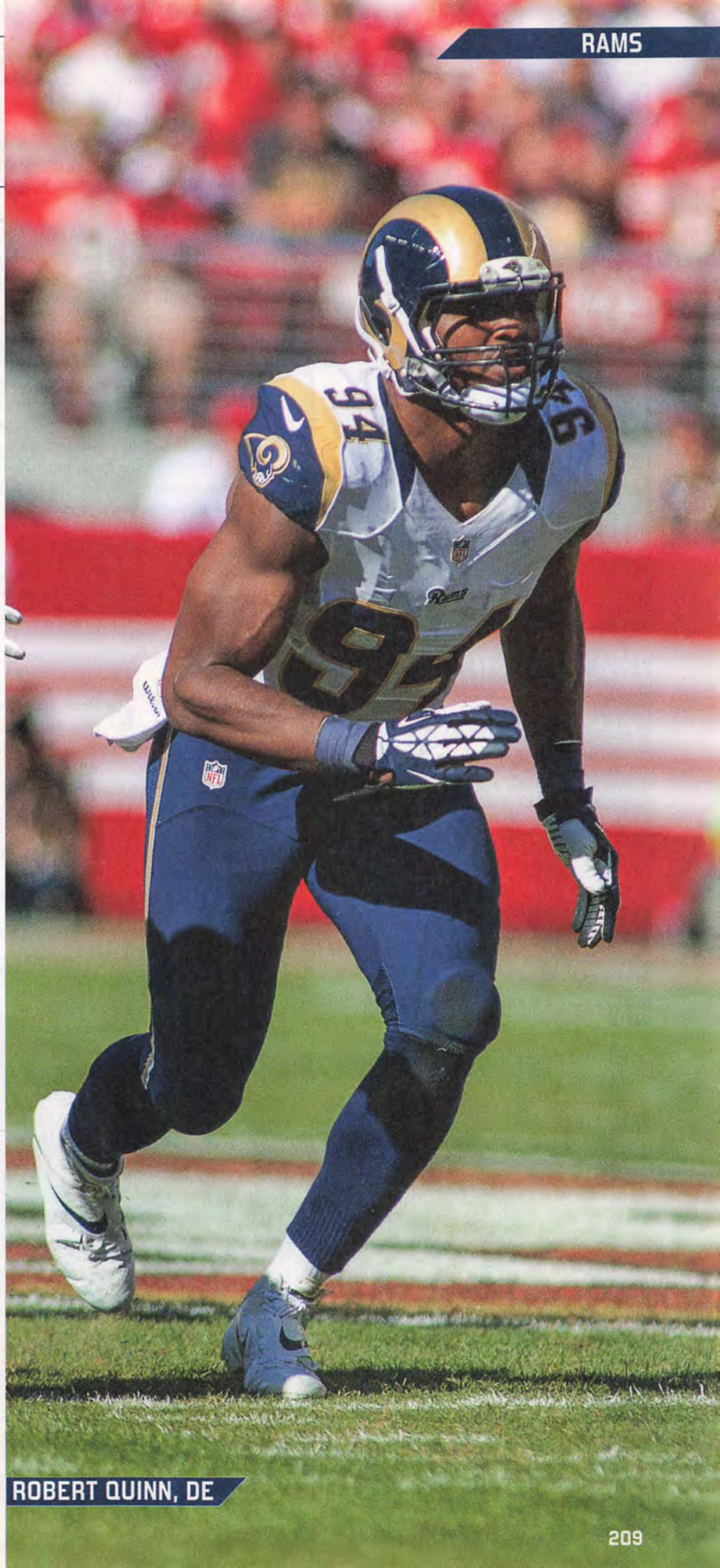
PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
LB	Akeem Ayers	New England
DT	Nick Fairley	Detroit
QB	Nick Foles	Philadelphia
G/T	Garrett Reynolds	Detroit

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
QB	Sam Bradford	Philadelphia
QB	Shaun Hill	Minnesota
OG	Davin Joseph	Free agent
DT	Kendall Langford	Indianapolis
LT	Jake Long	Free agent
C	Scott Wells	Free agent



ROBERT QUINN, DE

2014 RESULTS (6-10)

Sept. 7	Minnesota	L	6-34
Sept. 14	at Tampa Bay	W	19-17
Sept. 21	Dallas	L	31-34
Oct. 5	at Philadelphia	L	28-34
Oct. 13	San Francisco	L	17-31
Oct. 19	Seattle	W	28-26
Oct. 26	at Kansas City	L	7-34
Nov. 2	at San Francisco	W	13-10
Nov. 9	at Arizona	L	14-31
Nov. 16	Denver	W	22-7
Nov. 23	at San Diego	L	24-27
Nov. 30	Oakland	W	52-0
Dec. 7	at Washington	W	24-0
Dec. 11	Arizona	L	6-12
Dec. 21	N.Y. Giants	L	27-37
Dec. 28	at Seattle	L	6-20

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

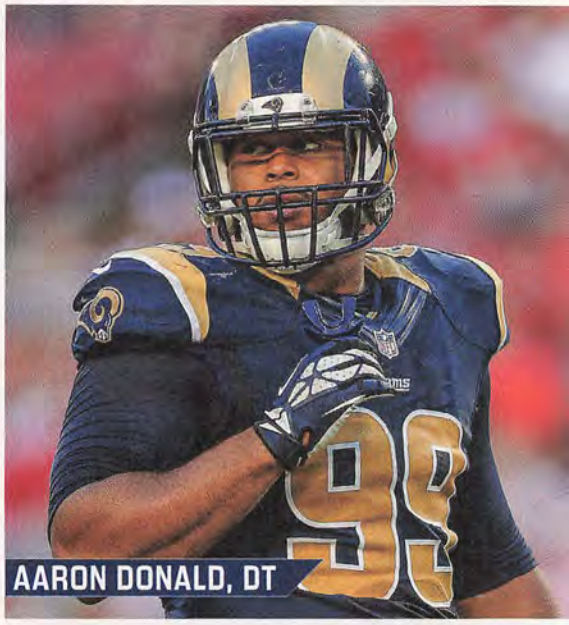
PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Austin Davis	284	180	2,001	12	9
Shaun Hill	229	145	1,657	8	7
RUSHING	**ATT**		**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Tre Mason	179		765	4.3	4
Zac Stacy	76		293	3.9	1
Benny Cunningham	66		246	3.7	3
RECEIVING	**REC**		**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Jared Cook	52		634	12.2	3
Kenny Britt	48		748	15.6	3
Benny Cunningham	45		352	7.8	1
Tavon Austin	31		242	7.8	0
Stedman Bailey	30		435	14.5	1

KICKING: Greg Zuerlein, 24-30 FGs, 34-35 PATs, 106 points
TACKLES: Alec Ogletree, 111; James Laurinaitis 109
SACKS: Robert Quinn, 10.5; Aaron Donald, 9.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Trumaine Johnson, 3; Four players tied with 2

2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	314.7	28	15
Rushing	102.2	20	10
Passing	212.5	23	12
Scoring	20.2	21	10
Third Down %	35.4	27	15
Punt Returns	13.0	T2	T2
Kick Returns	24.4	11	5
TEAM DEFENSE	**Stat**	**NFL Rank**	**NFC Rank**
Total	351.6	17	7
Rushing	110.3	14	7
Passing	241.3	19	8
Scoring	22.1	T16	8
Interceptions	13	T18	T11
Sacks	40	T13	T6
Turnover Differential	-2	19	10

coverage a year ago. But the cornerbacks still give up too many big plays. Consistency remains elusive for Janoris Jenkins, who makes big plays at times and then gambles and gives up big plays at times. Look for Lamarcus Joyner, who at times looked overmatched as a rookie, to step up his play.


AARON DONALD, DT

SPECIALISTS Punter Johnny Hekker and placekicker Greg Zuerlein form one of the league's top kicking tandems. Hekker made the Pro Bowl in 2013 and was nearly as good in '14. He can punt for distance and direction and is amazingly consistent, almost never hitting a bad one. And watch out for him on trick plays: The former high school quarterback can't be ignored as a threat passing the ball out of punt formation. Zuerlein hasn't been booming them from long distance like he did in his 2012 rookie season, when he earned the nicknamed Greg The Leg, but his accuracy has improved. In the return game, Austin hasn't disappointed on punt returns. He still needs to be more decisive, with a little more north-and-south and a little less wiggle. But he has had a lot of big returns called back by penalties in his first two seasons, so a little more discipline by blockers should lead to bigger and better things. Benny Cunningham is an unlikely looking kickoff returner. While most are sleek and fast, Cunningham looks like a tank rumbling up field at 5'10" and 217 pounds.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Rams have invested a lot of money and high draft picks on the defense. Now it's time for that defense to carry the day by shutting teams down and flashing dominance whenever possible. That will be especially important early in the season while the offense gets its act together. Even without a 100 percent Gurley early, the Rams should have enough on offense with Mason and the receiving corps to grind out some victories. There are two big "ifs" attached here, however. Foles must stay healthy, and the offensive line must overcome its youth and provide effective protection. We're guessing Foles gets it done; it's a little more dicey when it comes to the offensive line. But after 11 long seasons at or below sea level, the ingredients are in place for the Rams to post their first winning season since 2003 and keep Fisher and Snead around for another year or more.

RAMS IN THE DRAFT

B-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Todd Gurley	RB	6-1	222	Georgia
2.	Rob Havenstein	OT	6-7	321	Wisconsin
3.	Jamon Brown	OG	6-4	323	Louisville
3.	Sean Mannion	QB	6-6	229	Oregon State
4.	Andrew Donnal	OT	6-6	313	Iowa
6.	Bud Sasser	WR	6-2	210	Missouri
6.	Cody Wichmann	OG	6-6	315	Fresno State
7.	Bryce Hager	LB	6-1	234	Baylor
7.	Martin Ifedi	DE	6-3	275	Memphis

The Rams didn't select a defensive player until Round 7. Todd Gurley is a high-risk/high-reward pick who has big-time potential but is coming off knee surgery. With an already solid backfield, Gurley's a luxury pick who will reduce Tre Mason to backup status. By taking Gurley at No. 10, the Rams passed on taking Stanford's Andrus Peat, considered perhaps the best left tackle prospect in the draft. By trading down in the second round, they didn't take an offensive lineman until the 57th pick in Rob Havenstein, who probably starts at right tackle. He was the eighth tackle chosen in the draft. So the Rams got quantity in taking four offensive linemen, but did they get enough quality by waiting so long to address their most glaring needs? The Rams would like to make this a redshirt year for Sean Mannion at quarterback.

Donald: Tom DiPace; Gurley: Tami Chappell

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
9	Davis, Austin	QB	6-2	221	2	Southern Miss	FA-13	FA-StL-12
5	Foles, Nick	QB	6-6	243	3	Arizona	T-Phi-15	D3-Phi-12
17	Keenum, Case	QB	6-1	205	2	Houston	T-Hou-15	FA-Hou-12
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
82	Bayer, Alex	FB	6-4	258	1	Bowling Green	FA-14	FA-StL-14
36	Cunningham, Benny	RB	5-10	217	2	Middle Tennessee	FA-13	FA-StL-13
46	Harkey, Cory	FB	6-4	259	3	UCLA	FA-12	FA-StL-12
27	Mason, Tre	RB	5-8	207	1	Auburn	D3-14	D3-StL-14
24	Pead, Isaiah	RB	5-10	204	3	Cincinnati	D2c-12	D2c-StL-12
34	Reynolds, Chase	RB	6-0	205	2	Montana	FA-11	FA-Sea-11
42	Watts, Trey	RB	5-9	208	1	Tulsa	FA-14	FA-StL-14
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
11	Austin, Tavon	WR	5-8	176	2	West Virginia	D1a-13	D1a-StL-13
12	Bailey, Stedman	WR	5-10	194	2	West Virginia	D3b-13	D3b-StL-13
16	Blake, Emory	WR	6-0	192	1	Auburn	FA-14	FA-StL-13
18	Britt, Kenny	WR	6-3	223	6	Rutgers	FA-Ten-14	D1-Ten-09
86	Brodine, Mason	TE	6-7	284	1	Nebraska-Kearney	FA-12	FA-Oak-11
89	Cook, Jared	TE	6-5	254	6	South Carolina	FA-Ten-13	D3a-Ten-09
48	Cunningham, Justice	TE	6-3	258	1	South Carolina	FA-14	D7-Ind-13
13	Givens, Chris	WR	6-0	203	3	Wake Forest	D4-12	D4-StL-12
88	Kendricks, Lance	TE	6-3	250	4	Wisconsin	D2-11	D2-StL-11
83	Quick, Brian	WR	6-3	218	3	Appalachian State	D2a-12	D2a-StL-12
87	Smelley, Brad	TE	6-2	235	1	Alabama	FA-14	D7-Cle-12
19	Wylie, Devon	WR	5-9	187	3	Fresno State	FA-14	D4-KC-12
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
66	Baker, Steven	T	6-8	329	1	East Carolina	FA-14	FA-Ind-12
61	Barnes, Tim	C	6-4	306	3	Missouri	FA-11	FA-Bal-11
60	Bond, Travis	OL	6-6	329	1	North Carolina	W-Car-14	D7-Min-13
67	Jones, Barrett	C/G	6-4	308	2	Alabama	D4-13	D4-StL-13
71	Reynolds, Garrett	T/G	6-7	305	6	North Carolina	FA-Det-15	D5-Atl-09
65	Rhaney, Demetrius	OL	6-2	301	1	Tennessee State	D7d-14	D7d-StL-14
73	Robinson, Greg	OL	6-5	332	1	Auburn	D1a-14	D1a-StL-14
76	Saffold, Rodger	T	6-5	332	4	Indiana	D2-10	D2-StL-10
70	Washington, Brandon	T	6-2	318	2	Miami	FA-12	D6-Phi-12
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
90	Brockers, Michael	DT	6-5	326	3	LSU	D1-12	D1-StL-12
71	Conrath, Matt	DT	6-7	306	3	Virginia	FA-12	FA-StL-12
99	Donald, Aaron	DT	6-1	285	1	Pittsburgh	D1b-14	D1b-StL-14
98	Fairley, Nick	DT	6-4	308	4	Auburn	FA-Det-15	D1-Det-11
95	Hayes, William	DE	6-3	278	7	Winston-Salem St.	FA-Ten-12	D4a-Ten-08
91	Long, Chris	DE	6-3	268	7	Virginia	D1-08	D1-StL-08
94	Quinn, Robert	DE	6-4	264	4	North Carolina	D1-11	D1-StL-11
97	Sims, Eugene	DE	6-6	269	5	West Texas A&M	D6b-10	D6b-StL-10
93	Westbrooks, Ethan	DL	6-4	267	1	West Texas A&M	FA-14	FA-StL-14
96	Worthington, Doug	DT	6-5	318	1	Ohio State	FA-14	D7-Pit-10
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
50	Ayers, Akeem	LB	6-3	255	4	UCLA	FA-NE-15	D2-Ten-11
53	Bates, Daren	LB	5-11	225	2	Auburn	FA-13	FA-StL-13
58	Dunbar, Jo-Lonn	LB	6-0	235	7	Boston College	FA-NO-12	FA-NO-08
55	Laurinaitis, James	LB	6-2	248	6	Ohio State	D2-09	D2-StL-09
51	McFadden, Marshall	LB	6-1	235	1	South Carolina St.	FA-14	FA-Pit-12
52	Ogletree, Alec	LB	6-2	245	2	Georgia	D1b-13	D1b-StL-13
59	Toomer, Korey	LB	6-2	234	1	Idaho	FA-14	D5-Sea-12
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
31	Alexander, Maurice	S	6-1	220	1	Utah State	D4-14	D4-StL-14
26	Barron, Mark	S	6-2	213	3	Alabama	T-TB-14	D1-TB-12
37	Bryant, Christian	S	5-9	198	1	Ohio State	D7b-14	D7b-StL-14
38	Davis, Cody	S	6-1	206	2	Texas Tech	FA-13	FA-StL-13
33	Gaines, E.J.	CB	5-10	190	1	Missouri	D6a-14	D6a-StL-14
21	Jenkins, Janoris	CB	5-10	198	3	North Alabama	D2b-12	D2b-StL-12
22	Johnson, Trumaine	CB	6-2	208	3	Montana	D3-12	D3-StL-12
20	Joyner, Lamarcus	DB	5-8	184	1	Florida State	D2-14	D2-StL-14
25	McDonald, T.J.	S	6-2	217	2	USC	D3a-13	D3a-StL-13
32	McGee, Brandon	CB	5-11	193	2	Miami	D5a-13	D5a-StL-13
23	McLeod, Rodney	S	5-10	195	3	Virginia	FA-12	FA-StL-12
47	Roberson, Marcus	CB	6-0	191	1	Florida	FA-14	FA-StL-14
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
6	Hekker, Johnny	P	6-5	236	3	Oregon State	FA-12	FA-StL-12
44	McQuaide, Jake	LS	6-2	244	4	Ohio State	FA-11	FA-StL-11
1	Palardy, Michael	P	5-11	185	1	Tennessee	FA-15	FA-Oak-14
4	Zuerlein, Greg	K	6-0	196	3	Missouri Western	D6-12	D6-StL-12

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	18	Kenny Britt
	12	Stedman Bailey
WR	83	Brian Quick
	11	Tavon Austin
LT	73	Greg Robinson
	76	Rodger Saffold
LG	76	Rodger Saffold
	70	Brandon Washington
C	67	Barrett Jones
	61	Tim Barnes
RG	71	Garrett Reynolds
	68	Joman Brown (R)
RT	79	Rob Havenstein (R)
	64	Andrew Donnal (R)
TE	89	Jared Cook
	88	Lance Kendricks
QB	5	Nick Foles
	9	Austin Davis
FB	46	Cory Harkey
	82	Alex Bayer
RB	30	Todd Gurley (R)
	27	Tre Mason

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	91	Chris Long
	95	William Hayes
DT	90	Michael Brockers
	98	Nick Fairley
DT	99	Aaron Donald
	98	Nick Fairley
DE	94	Robert Quinn
	97	Eugene Sims
WLB	52	Alec Ogletree
	53	Daren Bates
MLB	55	James Laurinaitis
	54	Bryce Hager (R)
SLB	58	Jo-Lonn Dunbar
	50	Akeem Ayers
CB	21	Janoris Jenkins
	20	Lamarcus Joyner
CB	33	E.J. Gaines
	22	Trumaine Johnson
SS	25	T.J. McDonald
	26	Mark Barron
FS	23	Rodney McLeod
	31	Maurice Alexander

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Greg Zuerlein
P	6	Johnny Hekker
KR	36	Benny Cunningham
PR	11	Tavon Austin

SCOUTING THE RAMS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP ST. LOUIS "Not sure how a possible move to L.A. affects the players and coaches in 2015, but the Rams certainly look like an organization on the move based upon owner Stan Kroenke's activities in Southern California. ... Brian Schottenheimer left for Georgia as offensive coordinator, so Frank Cignetti takes over, and he will need better play from a substandard offensive line. ... At pick No. 10, they opted for talent over need as Georgia running back Todd Gurley was the choice. He is coming off a November ACL, but they saw him as the best player in the entire 2015 class. ... This is a defensive-centric team, but after a slow start in 2014, they only finished tied for 16th in scoring and 17th in total yards. ... Their front line has phenomenal talent. ... In the back end, the Rams traded for Bucs' safety Mark Barron in October, and they are hoping that he, T.J. McDonald and Rodney McLeod can give them the ability to put three safeties on the field together to contend with tight ends Vernon Davis and Jimmy Graham. ... With San Francisco losing so many starting-caliber players in the offseason, maybe the door is open for the Rams to get out of the NFC West cellar. ... How Nick Foles plays behind a shaky offensive line will determine much of what happens both on and off the field in 2015."

2015 SCHEDULE

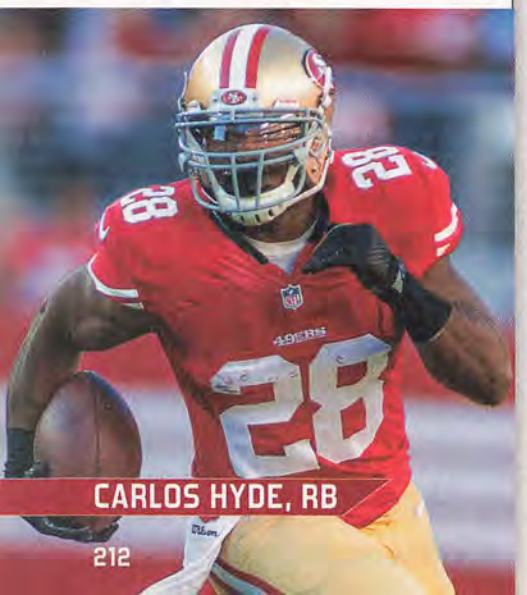
					2014 NFL RANKINGS			
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	Seattle	1:00	12-4	375.8 (9)	267.1 (1)	24.6 (10)	15.9 (1)
2	Sept. 20	at Washington	1:00	4-12	358.6 (13)	357.0 (20)	18.8 (26)	27.4 (29)
3	Sept. 27	Pittsburgh	1:00	11-5	411.1 (2)	353.4 (18)	27.3 (7)	23.0 (18)
4	Oct. 4	at Arizona	4:25	11-5	319.8 (24)	368.2 (24)	19.4 (24)	18.7 (5)
5	Oct. 11	at Green Bay	1:00	12-4	386.1 (6)	346.4 (15)	30.4 (1)	21.8 (13)
6		BYE						
7	Oct. 25	Cleveland	1:00	7-9	324.6 (23)	366.1 (23)	18.7 (27)	21.1 (9)
8	Nov. 1	San Francisco	1:00	8-8	327.4 (20)	321.4 (5)	19.1 (25)	21.3 (10)
9	Nov. 8	at Minnesota	1:00	7-9	315.5 (27)	344.7 (14)	20.3 (21)	21.4 (11)
10	Nov. 15	Chicago	1:00	5-11	327.1 (21)	377.1 (30)	19.9 (23)	27.6 (31)
11	Nov. 22	at Baltimore	1:00	10-6	364.9 (12)	336.9 (8)	25.6 (8)	18.9 (6)
12	Nov. 29	at Cincinnati	1:00	10-5-1	348.0 (15)	359.3 (22)	22.8 (15)	21.5 (12)
13	Dec. 6	Arizona	1:00	11-5	319.8 (24)	368.2 (24)	19.4 (24)	18.7 (5)
14	Dec. 13	Detroit	1:00	11-5	340.8 (19)	300.9 (2)	20.1 (22)	17.6 (2)
15	Dec. 17	Tampa Bay (Thu.)	8:25	2-14	292.0 (30)	368.9 (25)	17.3 (29)	25.6 (25)
16	Dec. 27	at Seattle	4:25	12-4	375.8 (9)	267.1 (1)	24.6 (10)	15.9 (1)
17	Jan. 3	at San Francisco	4:25	8-8	327.4 (20)	321.4 (5)	19.1 (25)	21.3 (10)

SAN FRANCISCO 49ers

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Jim Tomsula
RECORD WITH TEAM: 0–0
CAREER RECORD: 0–0
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Geep Chryst
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Eric Mangini
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Thomas McGaughey Jr.
QUARTERBACKS: Steve Logan
RUNNING BACKS: Tom Rathman
WIDE RECEIVERS: Ronald Curry
TIGHT ENDS: Tony Sparano
OFFENSIVE LINE: Chris Foerster
DEFENSIVE LINE: Scott Brown
LINEBACKERS: Clancy Pendergast
DEFENSIVE BACKS: Tim Lewis

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND


CARLOS HYDE, RB

4 NFC WEST FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

CO-CHAIRMAN: Denise DeBartolo York
CO-CHAIRMAN: John York
CEO: Jed York
GENERAL MANAGER: Trent Baalke
STADIUM: Levi's Stadium (68,500)
SURFACE: Grass
WEBSITE: www.49ers.com
TICKETS: 415-GO-49ERS
TRAINING CAMP: San Francisco 49ers Training Facility (Santa Clara, Calif.)

After leading the 49ers to the NFC title game three times and the Super Bowl once in his first three years, Jim Harbaugh saw his reign in San Francisco end with a tumultuous, dysfunctional 8–8 season. Harbaugh says he was pushed out by 49ers owner Jed York and general manager Trent Baalke. The team claims there was a "mutual" decision to part ways. The bottom line is the 49ers lost a coach who went 49–22–1 (including the postseason) and replaced him with Jim Tomsula, their longtime defensive line coach. Tomsula's only experience as a head coach came during one season in the defunct NFL Europe and the 49ers' final game in 2010 after they fired Mike Singletary.

"Jim did a heck of a job," Baalke says of Harbaugh, who took the job as Michigan's coach. "I think he's gone his direction, we've gone ours. I feel very good about the direction we're headed, and I'm sure he does as well."

Defensive coordinator Vic Fangio, the architect of San Francisco's elite defense, left to fill the same position with the Chicago Bears after being bypassed for the 49ers' top job. The 49ers promoted offensive assistant coach Eric Mangini, a former NFL head coach and defensive coordinator, to replace Fangio. Offensive coordinator Greg Roman left for the same job with the Buffalo Bills after taking much of the blame for the 49ers' offensive futility in 2015. Quarterbacks coach Geep Chryst was promoted to replace Roman. Chryst's only experience as an offensive coordinator was in 1999-2000 for the Chargers under Mike Riley.

Tomsula will try to resurrect a 49ers team that lost a long list of key players, including running back Frank Gore, guard Mike Iupati and linebacker Patrick Willis.

OFFENSE The 49ers believe Harbaugh and Roman strayed too far from the power-running attack last season in an attempt to boost their anemic passing game. Quarterback Colin Kaepernick actually regressed, and the 49ers ranked a dismal 25th in scoring at 19.1 points per game, down from 11th (25.4) in 2013. Kaepernick's passer rating dropped from 91.6 in 2013 to 86.4 last year, and the 49ers ranked 30th in passing offense, exactly where they ranked in 2013. For the first time in Harbaugh's four seasons, the 49ers had more passing attempts (487) than runs (470). Even so, the 49ers ranked fourth in the league in rushing at 136.0 yards per game.

As Chryst tries to get the 49ers' offense untracked, he won't have Gore, the franchise's all-time leading rusher, to lean on. Gore signed with Indianapolis as a free agent after the 49ers showed little interest in keeping him. Carlos Hyde, who rushed for 333 yards and four touchdowns on 83 carries in a solid rookie season, will start and should get most of the carries. But he'll share the running load with veteran Reggie Bush, a key free-agent pickup, and Kendall Hunter, who's returning from a knee injury.

The 49ers lost wide receiver Michael Crabtree in free agency, but they added former Ravens wideout Torrey Smith, giving Kaepernick a legitimate deep threat for the first time. Smith will be paired with Anquan Boldin, one of the NFL's most physical receivers. The 49ers need former Pro Bowl tight end Vernon Davis to rebound after catching just 26 passes for 245 yards and two touchdowns.

San Francisco's offensive line, which had long been a team strength, needs to bounce back, too. Kaepernick was sacked 52 times last season, and the line was in disarray most of the season. Center Daniel Kilgore missed the final nine games with a broken leg. Right tackle Anthony Davis missed nines games with assorted injuries. Right guard Alex Boone reported late because of a contract dispute and never got untracked, and he's still unhappy with his contract. After the season, the 49ers lost Pro Bowl left guard Iupati to Arizona as a free agent. Brandon Thomas, who missed his rookie season last year with an ACL injury, should get the first shot at replacing Iupati, but he'll battle free-agent pickup Erik Pears. Left tackle Joe Staley, a four-time Pro Bowl choice, still anchors a line that needs to regain its spot among the NFL's elite.

DEFENSE The hits kept on coming during the offseason for a 49ers defense that is still solid but nowhere near the force it was a few years ago. Willis, a seven-time Pro Bowl pick, retired in early March because of chronic foot injuries. Days later Chris Borland, his backup, retired because of health concerns over concussions. Defensive end Ray McDonald was released after yet another off-field incident. The 49ers lost two of their top three cornerbacks — Chris Culliver and Perrish Cox — to free agency. What's more, Pro Bowl defensive end Justin Smith is contemplating retirement. The 49ers used a first-round draft pick on Oregon defensive

Peter Brouillet

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

A STAR ON AND OFF THE FIELD The 49ers have drafted and signed more than their share of players with checkered pasts who wound up getting into trouble off the field. But when they signed free agent wide receiver Torrey Smith to a five-year, $40 million contract, they had no such concerns. Twice during his four seasons with the Baltimore Ravens, Smith was the team's nominee for the NFL's Walter Payton Man of the Year Award. Smith became known as much for his charitable works in Baltimore as he was for his game-breaking plays. "There's not one person that has a negative thing to say about Torrey Smith," 49ers general manger Trent Baalke says.

NEW-LOOK QB Quarterback Colin Kaepernick spent 10 weeks during the offseason at the EXOS training facility in Arizona, working on his mechanics and his mental approach. During that span he spent some time working with Kurt Warner, a two-time NFL MVP. "I feel like there's been quite a bit of change," Kaepernick says. "I just wanted to do everything I can to make sure I'm getting better and doing my part to help this team win." Tight end Vernon Davis says he noticed the change in Kaepernick immediately. "He looks like a totally different guy," Davis says.

SHARING THE LOAD Reggie Bush's numbers were down last year in an injury-shortened season with Detroit, but the 49ers expect him to bounce back and be a dangerous weapon this year, sharing time with likely starter Carlos Hyde and reserve Kendall Hunter. Two years ago, Bush rushed for 1,006 yards and four touchdowns and caught 54 passes for 506 yards and three touchdowns with the Lions. "He's not a gadget guy, in my opinion," 49ers coach Jim Tomsula says. "Reggie Bush is a running back. I'm real excited about Reggie joining the crew. Right now we got three guys in the backfield we feel great about. They're all just a little different from each other."

RUGBY STAR TRYING TO CATCH ON The 49ers under Bill Walsh signed world-class hurdler Renaldo Nehemiah and used him as a wide receiver. This year, general manager Trent Baalke signed Jarryd Hayne, a rugby superstar from Australia, in hopes that he can become a running back or return man in the NFL. He signed a three-year, $1.583 million dollar deal with $116,000 guaranteed. "A phenomenal athlete," Kaepernick says of Hayne. "Just a natural."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
RB	Reggie Bush	Detroit
DL	Darnell Dockett	Arizona
WR	Torrey Smith	Baltimore
LB	Philip Wheeler	Miami
CB	Shareece Wright	San Diego

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2015 TEAM
LB	Chris Borland	Retired
CB	Perrish Cox	Tennessee
WR	Michael Crabtree	Oakland
CB	Chris Culliver	Washington
RB	Frank Gore	Indianapolis
G	Mike Iupati	Arizona
OT	Jonathan Martin	Carolina
DE	Ray McDonald	Chicago
LB	Dan Skuta	Jacksonville
LB	Patrick Willis	Retired

COLIN KAEPERNICK, QB

2014 RESULTS (8-8)

Sept. 7	at Dallas	W	28-17
Sept. 14	Chicago	L	20-28
Sept. 21	at Arizona	L	14-23
Sept. 28	Philadelphia	W	26-21
Oct. 5	Kansas City	W	22-17
Oct. 13	at St. Louis	W	31-17
Oct. 19	at Denver	L	17-42
Nov. 2	St. Louis	L	10-13
Nov. 9	at New Orleans (ot)	W	27-24
Nov. 16	at N.Y. Giants	W	16-10
Nov. 23	Washington	W	17-13
Nov. 27	Seattle	L	3-19
Dec. 7	at Oakland	L	13-24
Dec. 14	at Seattle	L	7-17
Dec. 20	San Diego (ot)	L	35-38
Dec. 28	Arizona	W	20-17

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Colin Kaepernick	478	289	3,369	19	10
RUSHING	**ATT**		**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Frank Gore	255		1,106	4.3	4
Colin Kaepernick	104		639	6.1	1
Carlos Hyde	83		333	4.0	4
RECEIVING	**REC**		**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Anquan Boldin	83		1,062	12.8	5
Michael Crabtree	68		698	10.3	4
Steve Johnson	35		435	12.4	3
Vernon Davis	26		245	9.4	2
Bruce Miller	18		189	10.5	2
Brandon Lloyd	14		294	21.0	1

KICKING: Phil Dawson, 25-31 FGs, 33-33 PATs, 108 points
TACKLES: Chris Borland, 108; Antoine Bethea, 86
SACKS: Ahmad Brooks, 6.0; Aaron Lynch, 6.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Perrish Cox, 5; Two players tied with 4

2014 STATS

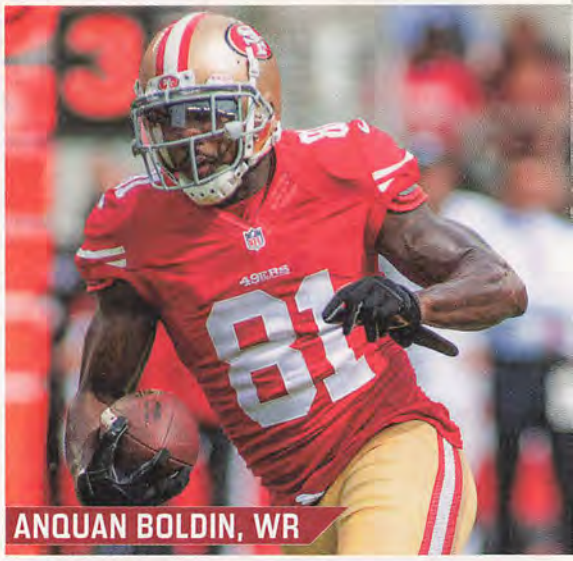
TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	327.4	11	20
Rushing	136.0	4	3
Passing	191.4	30	15
Scoring	19.1	25	14
Third Down %	40.4	15	9
Punt Returns	6.5	29	15
Kick Returns	24.5	T9	T3

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	321.4	5	3
Rushing	100.8	7	3
Passing	220.7	5	2
Scoring	21.2	10	2
Interceptions	23	1	1
Sacks	36	T21	T10
Turnover Differential	+7	T6	T4

end Arik Armstead, but he needs time to develop. Veteran defensive lineman Darnell Dockett, a free-agent pickup, is coming off a knee injury that forced him to miss the entire 2014 season. Young D-linemen Quinton Dial and Tank Carradine might have to take larger roles.

The 49ers' biggest loss on defense could well be Fangio, who set the bar extremely high. Under Fangio, the 49ers' ranked as high as third and never dropped below fifth in total yards allowed.

The 49ers expect to have All-Pro inside linebacker NaVorro Bowman back in the lineup after he missed the entire 2014 season while recovering from a devastating knee injury. Starting cornerback Tramaine Brock missed most of last season with a turf toe injury but is expected to regain a spot in the starting lineup and be paired with ex-Chargers cornerback Shareece Wright, a free-agent pickup. The 49ers have one of the NFL's top safety tandems in Eric Reid and Antoine Bethea. Outside linebacker Aldon Smith, who had 19.5 sacks in 2012, should get back on track after being suspended the first nine games last season for violating the NFL's personal conduct and substance-abuse policies.


ANQUAN BOLDIN, WR

SPECIALISTS Punter Andy Lee and kicker Phil Dawson have formed one of the best kicking tandems in the NFL. But they're coming off of subpar seasons, by their lofty standards, and Lee could be on his way out. The 49ers used a fifth-round pick to draft Clemson punter Bradley Pinion, who doubles as a kickoff man. That could turn out to be a key skill, considering that Dawson struggled to kick the ball deep. As a rookie last season, wide receiver Bruce Ellington handled most of the return duties. Jarryd Hayne, a rugby superstar from Australia, was signed as a free agent and could give Ellington some competition.

FINAL ANALYSIS The 49ers won't have to deal with as much dysfunction this year, but they lost a lot of talent, both on the field and in the coaching ranks. Baalke did little in free agency or the draft to help the 49ers' struggling offense. The 49ers finished third in the NFC West last year, and it's difficult to see them finishing ahead of defending division champion Seattle or Arizona, which was second. Even holding off the last-place St. Louis Rams could be a problem.

49ers IN THE DRAFT

C

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Arik Armstead	DE	6-7	292	Oregon
2.	Jaquiski Tartt	SS	6-1	221	Samford
3.	Eli Harold	OLB	6-3	247	Virginia
4.	Blake Bell	TE	6-6	252	Oklahoma
4.	Mike Davis	RB	5-9	217	South Carolina
4.	DeAndre Smelter	WR	6-2	226	Georgia Tech
5.	Bradley Pinion	P	6-6	240	Clemson
6.	Ian Silberman	OG	6-5	294	Boston College
7.	Trenton Brown	OT	6-8	355	Florida
7.	Busta Anderson	TE	6-4	244	South Carolina

Arik Armstead is a potential replacement for Justin Smith, who's considering retirement. Armstead fits the 49ers' 3-4 scheme, which requires linemen to be strong and athletic enough to cover two gaps, but he's still a raw talent. Jaquiski Tartt could be groomed to replace starting strong safety Antoine Bethea. He'll likely have a role in a nickel package this season. Eli Harold gives the 49ers another edge rusher. Tight end Blake Bell, a converted quarterback, could be used in the backfield in short-yardage and goal-line packages, as he was at Oklahoma. Running back Mike Davis fills a need for a second power runner in case starter Carlos Hyde is injured. Bradley Pinion, the only punter taken in the draft, doubles as a kickoff man and could take Andy Lee's job, saving some cap space.

Boldin: Peter Brouillet; Armstead: Craig Mitchelldyer

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
2	Gabbert, Blaine	QB	6-4	235	4	Missouri	T-Jac-14	D1-Jac-11
7	Kaepernick, Colin	QB	6-4	230	4	Nevada	D2-11	D2-SF-11
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
23	Bush, Reggie	RB	6-0	205	9	USC	FA-Det-15	D1-NO-06
40	Gaskins, Kendall	RB	6-1	238	1	Richmond	FA-14	FA-Buf-13
38	Hayne, Jarryd	RB	6-2	220	1	None	FA-15	FA-SF-15
32	Hunter, Kendall	RB	5-7	199	4	Oklahoma State	D4-11	D4-SF-11
28	Hyde, Carlos	RB	6-0	235	1	Ohio State	D2-14	D2-SF-14
33	Millard, Trey	FB	6-2	247	1	Oklahoma	D7b-14	D7b-SF-14
49	Miller, Bruce	FB	6-2	248	4	UCF	D7a-11	D7a-SF-11
38	Smith, Alfonso	RB	6-1	209	5	Kentucky	FA-14	FA-Ari-10
48	Tanner, Phillip	RB	5-10	208	4	Middle Tennessee	FA-14	FA-Dal-11
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
81	Boldin, Anquan	WR	6-1	220	12	Florida State	T-Bal-13	D2-Ari-03
46	Carrier, Derek	TE	6-4	241	2	Beloit	FA-13	FA-Oak-12
88	Celek, Garrett	TE	6-5	252	3	Michigan State	FA-12	FA-SF-12
45	Cleveland, Asante	TE	6-5	260	1	Miami	FA-14	FA-SF-14
85	Davis, Vernon	TE	6-3	250	9	Maryland	D1a-06	D1a-SF-06
10	Ellington, Bruce	WR	5-9	197	1	South Carolina	D4a-14	D4a-SF-14
83	Grimble, Xavier	TE	6-4	261	1	USC	FA-14	FA-NYG-14
17	Jacobs, Chuck	WR	6-0	178	1	Utah State	FA-13	FA-SF-13
18	Lewis, Lance	WR	6-2	207	2	East Carolina	FA-14	FA-Was-12
89	McDonald, Vance	TE	6-4	267	2	Rice	D2b-13	D2b-SF-13
11	Patton, Quinton	WR	6-0	204	2	Louisiana Tech	D4a-13	D4a-SF-13
82	Smith, Torrey	WR	6-0	205	4	Maryland	FA-Bal-15	D2-Bal-11
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
75	Boone, Alex	G/T	6-8	300	5	Ohio State	FA-09	FA-SF-09
76	Davis, Anthony	T	6-5	323	5	Rutgers	D1a-10	D1a-SF-10
56	Farrell, Dillon	G/C	6-5	303	1	New Mexico	FA-14	FA-SF-14
67	Kilgore, Daniel	G/C	6-3	308	4	Appalachian State	D5-11	D5-SF-11
78	Looney, Joe	G	6-3	315	3	Wake Forest	D4-12	D4-SF-12
66	Martin, Chris	T/C	6-5	303	1	UCF	FA-14	FA-Hou-14
66	Martin, Marcus	C	6-3	321	1	USC	D3a-14	D3a-SF-14
71	Pears, Erik	G/T	6-8	316	9	Colorado State	FA-Buf-15	FA-Den-05
74	Staley, Joe	T	6-5	315	8	Central Michigan	D1b-07	D1b-SF-07
60	Thomas, Brandon	G	6-3	317	1	Clemson	D3c-14	D3c-SF-14
61	Tiller, Andrew	G	6-4	324	2	Syracuse	FA-14	D6-NO-12
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
95	Carradine, Tank	DT	6-4	295	2	Florida State	D2a-13	D2a-SF-13
92	Dial, Quinton	DT	6-5	318	2	Alabama	D5-13	D5-SF-13
90	Dockett, Darnell	DE	6-4	290	11	Florida State	FA-Ari-15	D3-Ari-04
91	Dorsey, Glenn	DL	6-1	297	7	LSU	FA-KC-13	D1a-KC-08
63	Jerod-Eddie, Tony	DT	6-5	301	2	Texas A&M	FA-12	FA-SF-12
98	Okoye, Lawrence	DL	6-6	304	2	None	FA-13	FA-SF-13
64	Purcell, Mike	NT	6-3	303	1	Wyoming	FA-13	FA-SF-13
68	Ramsey, Kaleb	DT	6-3	285	1	Boston College	D7a-14	D7a-SF-14
65	Smith, Garrison	NT	6-1	300	1	Georgia	FA-14	FA-Mia-14
94	Smith, Justin	DE	6-4	285	14	Missouri	FA-Cin-08	D1-Cin-01
93	Williams, Ian	NT	6-1	305	4	Notre Dame	FA-11	FA-SF-11
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
50	Bellore, Nick	LB	6-1	250	4	Central Michigan	FA-NYJ-15	FA-NYJ-11
51	Bishop, Desmond	LB	6-2	244	7	California	FA-14	D6-GB-07
53	Bowman, NaVorro	LB	6-0	242	5	Penn State	D3-10	D3-SF-10
55	Brooks, Ahmad	LB	6-3	259	9	Virginia	W-Cin-08	FA-Cin-08
96	Lemonier, Corey	LB	6-3	255	2	Auburn	D3-13	D3-SF-13
59	Lynch, Aaron	LB	6-6	270	1	South Florida	D5a-14	D5a-SF-14
54	Moody, Nick	LB	6-1	245	2	Florida State	D6-13	D6-SF-13
48	Skov, Shayne	LB	6-3	247	1	Stanford	FA-14	FA-SF-14
99	Smith, Aldon	LB	6-4	265	4	Missouri	D1-11	D1-SF-11
52	Wheeler, Philip	LB	6-2	245	7	Georgia Tech	FA-Mia-15	D3-Ind-08
57	Wilhoite, Michael	LB	6-0	240	3	Washburn	FA-11	FA-SF-11
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
24	Acker, Kenneth	CB	6-0	195	1	SMU	D6-14	D6-SF-14
41	Bethea, Antoine	S	5-11	206	9	Howard	FA-Ind-14	D6-Ind-06
26	Brock, Tramaine	CB	5-10	197	5	Belhaven	FA-10	FA-SF-10
22	Cook, Chris	CB	6-2	212	5	Virginia	FA-Min-14	D2a-Min-10
47	Cromartie, Marcus	CB	6-0	195	1	Wisconsin	FA-14	FA-SD-13
43	Dahl, Craig	S	6-1	212	8	North Dakota State	FA-StL-13	FA-NYG-07
36	Johnson, Dontae	CB	6-2	200	1	NC State	D4b-14	D4b-SF-14
31	McCray, L.J.	S	6-0	210	1	Catawba	FA-14	FA-SF-14
30	McFadden, Leon	CB	5-10	190	2	San Diego State	FA-14	D3-Cle-13
27	Reaser, Keith	CB	6-0	190	1	Florida Atlantic	D5b-14	D5b-SF-14
35	Reid, Eric	S	6-1	213	2	LSU	D1-13	D1-SF-13
23	Ventrone, Bubba	S	5-10	200	8	Villanova	FA-14	FA-NE-05
25	Ward, Jimmie	DB	5-11	193	1	Northern Illinois	D1-14	D1-SF-14
29	Wright, Shareece	CB	5-11	182	4	USC	FA-SD-15	D3b-SD-11
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
9	Dawson, Phil	K	5-11	200	16	Texas	FA-Cle-13	FA-Oak-98
4	Lee, Andy	P	6-2	180	11	Pittsburgh	D6a-04	D6a-SF-04
86	Nelson, Kyle	LS	6-2	240	3	New Mexico State	FA-14	FA-NO-11

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	81	Anquan Boldin
	11	Quinton Patton
WR	82	Torrey Smith
	10	Bruce Ellington
LT	74	Joe Staley
	71	Erik Pears
LG	60	Brandon Thomas
	78	Joe Looney
C	67	Daniel Kilgore
	66	Marcus Martin
RG	75	Alex Boone
	56	Dillon Farrell
RT	76	Anthony Davis
	71	Erik Pears
TE	85	Vernon Davis
	89	Vance McDonald
QB	7	Colin Kaepernick
	2	Blaine Gabbert
FB	49	Bruce Miller
	33	Trey Millard
RB	28	Carlos Hyde
	23	Reggie Bush

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	90	Darnell Dockett
	92	Quinton Dial
NT	91	Glenn Dorsey
	93	Ian Williams
DE	94	Justin Smith
		Arik Armstead (R)
OLB	55	Ahmad Brooks
	59	Aaron Lynch
ILB	57	Michael Wilhoite
	52	Philip Wheeler
ILB	53	NaVorro Bowman
	51	Desmond Bishop
OLB	99	Aldon Smith
		Eli Harold (R)
CB	26	Tramaine Brock
	22	Chris Cook
CB	29	Shareece Wright
	36	Dontae Johnson
SS	41	Antoine Bethea
		Jaquiski Tartt (R)
FS	35	Eric Reid
	43	Craig Dahl

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Phil Dawson	KR	10 Bruce Ellington
P		Bradley Pinion (R)	PR	10 Bruce Ellington

SCOUTING THE 49ers

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP FRANCISCO "As many in the league anticipated, the 49ers brass got what they wanted at the end of 2014 — head coach Jim Harbaugh departing for another job. Defensive line coach Jim Tomsula takes over, and he was rumored to be the internal favorite all along. ... Colin Kaepernick spent the offseason in Arizona re-tooling his mechanics, and it will be interesting to see if that training can translate to the season. ... The offensive line is still in the top third, if everyone is healthy, and should bounce back from a subpar showing in 2014. ... Anquan Boldin had his seventh 1,000-yard-plus season despite the 49ers ranking 30th in passing. ... Maybe the biggest key for Kaepernick will be getting tight end Vernon Davis back into the offense. ... On defense, end Darnell Dockett decided to stay within the division, and he will bolster the front in the absence of Ray McDonald (Bears) and the potential retirement of Justin Smith. ... They also drafted Oregon end Arik Armstead to help put the unit back together again. ... The linebacker position was jolted when All-Pro Patrick Willis, their spiritual leader, retired at age 30, only to have rookie Chris Borland walk away from the sport less than a week later. ... On paper, the 49ers have definitely taken a step back from a personnel perspective. Now we will see if the same is true in coaching as well."

2015 SCHEDULE

					2014 NFL RANKINGS			
Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 14	Minnesota (Mon.)	10:20	7-9	315.5 (27)	344.7 (14)	20.3 (21)	21.4 (11)
2	Sept. 20	at Pittsburgh	1:00	11-5	411.1 (2)	353.4 (18)	27.3 (7)	23.0 (18)
3	Sept. 27	at Arizona	4:05	11-5	319.8 (24)	368.2 (24)	19.4 (24)	18.7 (5)
4	Oct. 4	Green Bay	4:25	12-4	386.1 (6)	346.4 (15)	30.4 (1)	21.8 (13)
5	Oct. 11	at N.Y. Giants	8:30	6-10	367.2 (10)	375.8 (29)	23.8 (13)	25.0 (22)
6	Oct. 18	Baltimore	4:25	10-6	364.9 (12)	336.9 (8)	25.6 (8)	18.9 (6)
7	Oct. 22	Seattle (Thu.)	8:25	12-4	375.8 (9)	267.1 (1)	24.6 (10)	15.9 (1)
8	Nov. 1	at St. Louis	1:00	6-10	314.7 (28)	351.6 (17)	20.3 (20)	22.1 (16)
9	Nov. 8	Atlanta	4:05	6-10	378.2 (8)	398.3 (32)	23.8 (12)	26.1 (27)
10		BYE						
11	Nov. 22	at Seattle	4:25	12-4	375.8 (9)	267.1 (1)	24.6 (10)	15.9 (1)
12	Nov. 29	Arizona	4:05	11-5	319.8 (24)	368.2 (24)	19.4 (24)	18.7 (5)
13	Dec. 6	at Chicago	1:00	5-11	327.1 (21)	377.1 (30)	19.9 (23)	27.6 (31)
14	Dec. 13	at Cleveland	1:00	7-9	324.6 (23)	366.1 (23)	18.7 (27)	21.1 (9)
15	Dec. 20	Cincinnati	8:30	10-5-1	348.0 (15)	359.3 (22)	22.8 (15)	21.5 (12)
16	Dec. 27	at Detroit	1:00	11-5	340.8 (19)	300.9 (2)	20.1 (22)	17.6 (2)
17	Jan. 3	St. Louis	4:25	6-10	314.7 (28)	351.6 (17)	20.3 (20)	22.1 (16)

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

1 NFC WEST FORECAST

THE ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN: Paul G. Allen
PRESIDENT: Peter McLoughlin
EXECUTIVE VP/GENERAL MANAGER: John Schneider
STADIUM: CenturyLink Field (67,000)
SURFACE: FieldTurf
WEBSITE: www.seahawks.com
TICKETS: 425-202-8000
TRAINING CAMP: Virginia Mason Athletic Center (Renton, Wash.)

The Seahawks were less than a yard from the end zone — a Marshawn Lynch plunge from sure victory, just 26 seconds from becoming an NFL dynasty — when they made what has been labeled the worst play call in Super Bowl history.

In the wake of Russell Wilson's disastrous goal-line interception against New England, preventing consecutive victories for this team on pro football's largest stage, Seattle will attempt to shake off any lingering residue and resume its role as a championship contender.

Outside of a blockbuster trade — acquiring tight end Jimmy Graham and a fourth-round draft pick from New Orleans for one-time Pro Bowl center Max Unger and a first-round selection — the Seahawks didn't make mass changes. They used the offseason to forgive and forget.

Seattle retains all of its important ingredients — the vaunted defense, inhospitable stadium, feel-good coach, durable Lynch and now rededicated Wilson — as it attempts to become the third team to make three or more consecutive Super Bowl appearances, joining Miami (1972-74) and Buffalo (1991-94). At 30–8 (including playoffs), the Seahawks still have the best record in the league for two seasons running. There's plenty to play for, especially redemption. "I won't allow one play or one moment to define my career," Wilson promises. "Every setback has a major comeback."

OFFENSE Any major retooling for this team will come across the offensive line, where two starters must be replaced, seemingly a yearly chore. Patrick Lewis and Alvin Bailey are the new center and left guard, respectively, though not all that new. Lewis started four times in place of Unger, with his steady performance making it easier for the team to part with the incumbent player. The versatile Bailey was in the opening lineup five times at three different line positions, starting on three occasions for departed left guard James Carpenter, a former first-round draft pick who couldn't stay healthy and earn the team's considerable investment in him. Bailey, with his long arms and good balance, was especially effective against the pass rush. Left tackle Russell Okung, right tackle Justin Britt and right guard J.R. Sweezy are returning starters — solid, rather than upper-echelon players.

The big position upgrade was adding Graham to the receiving corps, giving the Seahawks something they haven't had for several seasons — a superior pass-catcher. Graham's 51 touchdowns in five seasons in New Orleans and general elusiveness bode well for his new team's preference to emphasize the tight end position, which also features speedy Luke Willson. Seattle had a combined 48 tight end receptions in 2014, sixth fewest in the NFL, necessitating added help. Holdover wideouts Jermaine Kearse and Doug Baldwin are capable of making big plays but often go unnoticed for long stretches. Rookie Tyler Lockett will get an opportunity to cut into their playing time.

The backfield is the only place on the offense that remains unchanged. Lynch continues to defy the standard aging process for an NFL running back, to the point the Seahawks signed him in the offseason to a three-year, $31 million contract extension. Considering the punishment he takes and delivers, the player known as Beast Mode might be good for just one more year. At 29, he's turned in four consecutive regular seasons of more than 1,200 rushing yards while carrying the ball nearly 1,200 times, numbers that typically invite rapid decline.

Wilson returns for his fourth season, offering a Seahawks career highlighted by a 42–14 overall record as a starter and a resounding Super Bowl championship. The team is hoping Wilson's slow-paced contract-extension negotiations don't detract from his play.

DEFENSE No unit across the NFL is more respected, feared or solidified than the Seattle defense. It returns all but one starter, needing only an able cornerback replacement for the departed Byron Maxwell. The Seahawks come off three consecutive seasons as the league leader in scoring defense, something not done since Minnesota from 1969-71, after limiting opposing teams to a modest 15.9 points per game in 2014. Talk persists that this is one of the league's better defenses of modern times.

The front four gets an effective push from ends Michael Bennett and Cliff Avril and tackles Tony McDaniel and Jordan Hill. Bennett, the best of this bunch, reportedly used his status to demand a trade (which he denied) and skipped voluntary workouts. The tackles get much-needed depth with the return of former starter Brandon Mebane from a season-ending hamstring injury and the free-agent acquisition of Cleveland starter Ahtyba Rubin.

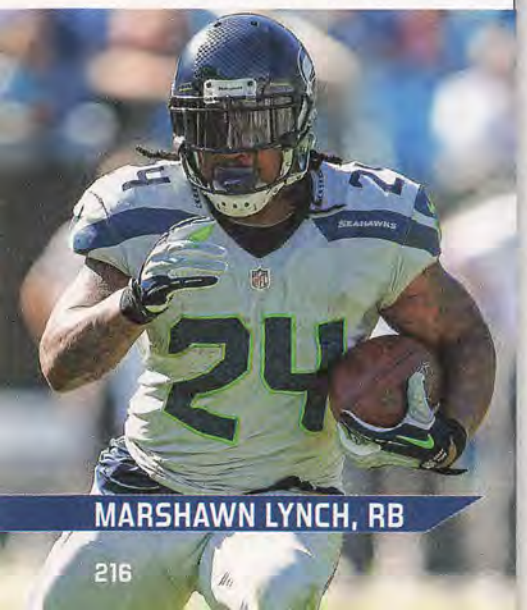
The linebacking corps is just as sturdy as the front wall if not a lot less complicated, comprised of K.J. Wright and Bruce Irvin on the outside flanking Bobby Wagner. A former

THE COACHES

HEAD COACH: Pete Carroll
RECORD WITH TEAM: 50–30
CAREER RECORD: 83–61
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Darrel Bevell
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR/DEFENSIVE BACKS: Kris Richard
ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/OFFENSIVE LINE: Tom Cable
ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/DEFENSE: Rocky Seto
SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Brian Schneider
QUARTERBACKS: Carl Smith
RUNNING BACKS: Sherman Smith
WIDE RECEIVERS: Kippy Brown
TIGHT ENDS: Pat McPherson
DEFENSIVE LINE: Travis Jones
LINEBACKERS: Micheal Barrow

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

Playoffs NFC Champion Super Bowl Champion



MARSHAWN LYNCH, RB

Lynch, Wilson: Tom DiPace; Cheerleader: Craig Mitchelldyer

NEW ERA

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

LET'S BE FRIENDS Jimmy Graham and Bruce Irvin tangled before a January 2014 playoff game, exchanging shoves and insults. As new teammates, everything appears to be forgiven. The former New Orleans tight end and Seahawks linebacker posed for a mock fight photo on Instagram with other Seattle players shown trying to intervene, accompanied by the following tag: #loveourbrothers.

MONEY MATTERS GM John Schneider drew quizzical looks around Seattle when he spoke frankly about Russell Wilson's contract negotiations, indicating in an offhand manner how anything could happen. "We'd love him to be our quarterback, but the thing is we need to keep as many of these guys together as we possibly can," Schneider said. "What I can tell you is that this is the ultimate team sport."

ROSTER REMNANTS Defensive tackle Brandon Mebane and punter Jon Ryan are the only inherited players still with the franchise when Pete Carroll became coach in 2010, first surviving the 284-plus roster moves during Carroll's initial season.

NIGHT MOVES Rewarded for their repeated success, the Seahawks will turn up on prime time TV as much as any NFL team this season. They have been assigned night games on Thursday (at San Francisco), Sunday (at Green Bay, Arizona, at Baltimore) and Monday (Detroit), with the possibility of another contest getting elevated. The maximum for any team is six.

WHAT'S MY LINE? An offseason report suggested that Seahawks defensive end Michael Bennett wanted a trade to Atlanta, where former Seattle defensive coordinator Dan Quinn is the new head coach, and Bennett offered this unique rebuttal: "Man, like I said, they made rumors about Jesus, they'll make rumors about anybody."

DEFENSIVE REWARDS It's no secret that defense has fueled the Seahawks' success of three consecutive playoff berths, handiwork that has brought promotions. The team will turn to its third defensive coordinator in four seasons, with Gus Bradley leaving to become the Jacksonville coach in 2012, Quinn now in place as the Atlanta coach and former Seahawks cornerback Kris Richard moving up from secondary coach to run the Seattle defense.

SPRING FEVER Wilson spent part of a second spring training with the Texas Rangers, the baseball organization that owns his playing rights, and he didn't totally refute someday trying to juggle two big-league sporting pursuits. "I never wanted to kill the dream of playing two sports," he said. "I would honestly play two sports."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
CB	Will Blackmon	Jacksonville
TE	Jimmy Graham	New Orleans
NT	Ahtyba Rubin	Cleveland
CB	Cary Williams	Philadelphia

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2014 TEAM
OG	James Carpenter	N.Y. Jets
SS	Jeron Johnson	Washington
CB	Byron Maxwell	Philadelphia
LB	Malcolm Smith	Oakland
DE/LB	O'Brien Schofield	Atlanta
C	Max Unger	New Orleans
WR	Bryan Walters	Jacksonville

RUSSELL WILSON, QB

2014 RESULTS (12-4)

Sept. 4	Green Bay	W	36-16
Sept. 14	at San Diego	L	21-30
Sept. 21	Denver (ot)	W	26-20
Oct. 6	at Washington	W	27-17
Oct. 12	Dallas	L	23-30
Oct. 19	at St. Louis	L	26-28
Oct. 26	at Carolina	W	13-9
Nov. 2	Oakland	W	30-24
Nov. 9	N.Y. Giants	W	38-17
Nov. 16	at Kansas City	L	20-24
Nov. 23	Arizona	W	19-3
Nov. 27	at San Francisco	W	19-3
Dec. 7	at Philadelphia	W	24-14
Dec. 14	San Francisco	W	17-7
Dec. 21	at Arizona	W	35-6
Dec. 28	St. Louis	W	20-6
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 10	Carolina	W	31-17
Jan. 18	Green Bay (ot)	W	28-22
Feb. 1	New England	L	24-28

2014 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Russell Wilson	452	285	3,475	20	7
RUSHING	**ATT**		**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Marshawn Lynch	280		1,306	4.7	13
Russell Wilson	118		849	7.2	6
Robert Turbin	74		310	4.2	0
Christine Michael	34		175	5.1	0
RECEIVING	**REC**		**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Doug Baldwin	66		825	12.5	3
Jermaine Kearse	38		537	14.1	1
Marshawn Lynch	37		367	9.9	4
Paul Richardson	29		271	9.3	1
Luke Willson	22		362	16.5	3

KICKING: Steven Hauschka, 31-37 FGs, 41-41 PATs, 134 points
TACKLES: K.J. Wright, 107; Bobby Wagner, 104
SACKS: Michael Bennett, 7.0; Bruce Irvin, 6.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Richard Sherman, 4; Two players tied with 2

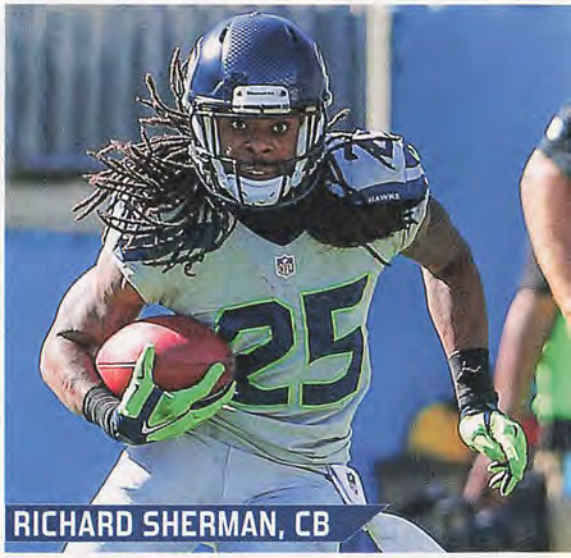
2014 STATS

TEAM OFFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	375.8	9	6
Rushing	172.6	1	1
Passing	203.1	27	14
Scoring	24.6	10	5
Third Down %	42.5	11	7
Punt Returns	7.0	25	14
Kick Returns	21.0	30	14

TEAM DEFENSE	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	267.1	1	1
Rushing	81.5	3	2
Passing	185.6	1	1
Scoring	15.9	1	1
Interceptions	13	T18	T11
Sacks	37	20	9
Turnover Differential	+9	4	2

defensive end, Irvin is the flashy one, scoring twice in 2014 on interception returns. However, Wagner is the indispensible one, with the Seahawks stumbling through a lackluster 3–2 spell when a toe injury sidelined the highly productive player who has been compared to Ray Lewis and others because of his dependability.

The real jewel of this smothering group remains the secondary, manned by All-Pro safeties Earl Thomas and Kam Chancellor and similarly decorated cornerback Richard Sherman, and one that still identifies itself as the Legion of Boom. The three returnees are all potential Hall of Famers, each capable of holding his own in one-on-one coverage without the benefit of blitzing teammates. Thomas is considered the league's best at his position, Sherman at his. Each of them played injured in the Super Bowl. Sherman came up with a team-best six interceptions, counting the postseason, even as most teams refused to throw his way. Maxwell's replacement will come from among offseason acquisitions Cary Williams and Will Blackmon and holdover Tharold Simon.


RICHARD SHERMAN, CB

SPECIALISTS For four consecutive seasons now, the Seahawks' kicking game has been in solid hands across the board. Placekicker Steven Hauschka has extended his field-goal range to 58 yards and been no worse than 83 percent on accuracy, while punter Jon Ryan averaged 44.1 yards per kick and threw a crucial postseason touchdown pass. Where the team needs a noticeable boost is in each return game, where a multitude of players failed to post a run-back longer than 47 yards. Lockett was drafted to fill this need.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Seahawks still have the talent to make another Super Bowl run, which is getting almost routine for the franchise. Over the previous decade, just three teams took three trips to the big game: Pittsburgh (2–1), New England (1–2) and Seattle (1–2). While there's always concern that complacency, big-contract squabbles or, in this case, bitter disappointment will break up a good thing, the Seahawks would be pursuing an unprecedented third consecutive Super Bowl victory and entertaining best-ever chatter if not for that fateful interception against the Patriots. Provided the offensive line comes together, there's still football life in Lynch, and Wilson has a short memory, this team should be a serious postseason factor once more.

SEAHAWKS IN THE DRAFT

C-

RD PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
2. Frank Clark	**DE**	**6-3**	**272**	**Michigan**
3. Tyler Lockett	WR	5-10	182	Kansas State
4. Terry Poole	OT	6-5	323	San Diego State
4. Mark Glowinski	OG	6-4	310	West Virginia
5. Tye Smith	CB	6-0	195	Towson
6. Obum Gwacham	DE	6-5	248	Oregon State
6. Kristjan Sokoli	OG	6-5	302	Buffalo
7. Ryan Murphy	SS	6-3	214	Oregon State

The Seahawks needed a kick returner more than anything and used four draft picks to move up and take the speedy Tyler Lockett. Though smaller than Seattle's typical wide receiver, he should help out there, too. Of three offensive linemen selected, Terry Poole is the best bet to play right away because of his versatility; he's an interchangeable part at tackle, guard and center. Kristjan Sokoli is the team's annual creative draft choice; he played defensive line in college, but will be tried at offensive guard, similar to what Seattle did with current starter J.R. Sweezy from the 2012 draft. The Seahawks took a gamble on top pick Frank Clark, a defensive end with high-end potential but a domestic-violence history that got him dismissed at Michigan. "We have done a ton of research on this young man," GM John Schneider told reporters in the days following the draft.

Sherman: Tom DiPace; Clark: AP

2015 VETERAN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
6 Archer, R.J.	QB	6-2	220	1	William & Mary	FA-15	FA-Min-10
5 Daniels, B.J.	QB	5-11	217	2	South Florida	W-SF-13	D7-SF-13
3 Wilson, Russell	QB	5-11	206	3	Wisconsin	D3-12	D3-Sea-12
RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
30 Bronson, Demitrius	RB	5-9	211	1	Eastern Washington	FA-14	FA-Sea-14
40 Coleman, Derrick	FB	6-0	233	3	UCLA	FA-12	FA-Min-12
24 Lynch, Marshawn	RB	5-11	215	8	California	T-Buf-10	D1-Buf-07
33 Michael, Christine	RB	5-10	221	2	Texas A&M	D2-13	D2-Sea-13
46 Tukuafu, Will	FB	6-4	293	5	Oregon	FA-10	FA-Sea-10
22 Turbin, Robert	RB	5-10	222	3	Utah State	D4a-12	D4a-Sea-12
RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
87 Allen, RaShaun	TE	6-4	250	1	Southern	FA-14	FA-Sea-14
89 Baldwin, Doug	WR	5-10	189	4	Stanford	FA-11	FA-Sea-11
88 Graham, Jimmy	TE	6-7	265	5	Miami	T-NO-15	D3-NO-10
84 Helfet, Cooper	TE	6-3	239	3	Duke	FA-12	FA-Sea-12
15 Kearse, Jermaine	WR	6-1	209	3	Washington	FA-12	FA-Sea-12
83 Lockette, Ricardo	WR	6-2	211	4	Fort Valley State	FA-13	FA-Sea-11
13 Matthews, Chris	WR	6-5	218	1	Kentucky	FA-14	FA-Cle-11
85 McCoy, Anthony	TE	6-5	259	5	USC	D6-10	D6-Sea-10
16 McNiel, Douglas	WR	6-3	200	1	Bowie State	FA-14	FA-Den-14
81 Norwood, Kevin	WR	6-2	199	1	Alabama	D4b-14	D4b-Sea-14
10 Richardson, Paul	WR	6-0	183	1	Colorado	D2a-14	D2a-Sea-14
82 Willson, Luke	TE	6-5	252	2	Rice	D5c-13	D5c-Sea-13
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
78 Bailey, Alvin	G	6-3	320	2	Arkansas	FA-13	FA-Sea-13
68 Britt, Justin	T	6-6	325	1	Missouri	D2b-14	D2b-Sea-14
63 Davis, C.J.	G	6-2	308	4	Pittsburgh	FA-14	FA-Car-09
79 Gilliam, Garry	T	6-5	306	1	Penn State	FA-14	FA-Sea-14
61 Jeanpierre, Lemuel	C	6-3	301	5	South Carolina	FA-10	FA-KC-10
65 Lewis, Patrick	C	6-1	311	2	Texas A&M	PS-Cle-14	FA-GB-13
66 Milton, Keavon	G	6-4	324	2	UL Monroe	FA-14	FA-NO-13
62 Nowak, Drew	G	6-3	292	3	Western Michigan	FA-14	FA-Jac-12
76 Okung, Russell	T	6-5	310	5	Oklahoma State	D1a-10	D1a-Sea-10
63 Schilling, Stephen	G	6-5	312	4	Michigan	FA-SD-14	D6b-SD-11
64 Sweezy, J.R.	G	6-5	298	3	NC State	D7a-12	D7a-Sea-12
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
56 Avril, Cliff	DE	6-3	260	7	Purdue	FA-Det-13	D3c-Det-08
72 Bennett, Michael	DE	6-4	274	6	Texas A&M	FA-TB-13	FA-Sea-09
95 Dobbs, Demarcus	DE	6-2	282	4	Georgia	W-SF-14	FA-SF-11
97 Hill, Jordan	DT	6-1	303	2	Penn State	D3-13	D3-Sea-13
70 King, David	DE	6-4	281	2	Oklahoma	PS-Cin-14	D7-Phi-13
91 Marsh, Cassius	DE	6-4	254	1	UCLA	D4a-14	D4a-Sea-14
99 McDaniel, Tony	DT	6-7	305	9	Tennessee	FA-Mia-13	FA-Jac-06
92 Mebane, Brandon	DT	6-1	311	8	California	D3-07	D3-Sea-07
44 Robinson, Ryan	DE	6-3	251	2	Oklahoma State	FA-14	FA-Oak-13
77 Rubin, Ahtyba	DL	6-2	325	7	Iowa State	FA-Cle-15	D6a-Cle-08
98 Scruggs, Greg	DE	6-3	310	3	Louisville	D7b-12	D7b-Sea-12
75 Smith, D'Anthony	DT	6-2	300	5	Louisiana Tech	T-Jac-13	D3-Jac-10
74 Warmsley, Julius	DE	6-2	276	1	Tulane	FA-14	FA-Hou-14
90 Williams, Jesse	DT	6-3	325	2	Alabama	D5a-13	D5a-Sea-13
LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
47 Alexander, Mister	LB	6-3	252	3	Florida State	FA-15	FA-Hou-11
52 Coyle, Brock	LB	6-1	243	1	Montana	FA-14	FA-Sea-14
55 Farwell, Heath	LB	6-0	235	10	San Diego State	FA-11	FA-Min-05
51 Irvin, Bruce	LB	6-3	248	3	West Virginia	D1-12	D1-Sea-12
57 Morgan, Mike	LB	6-3	226	4	USC	FA-11	FA-Sea-11
58 Pierre-Louis, Kevin	LB	6-0	236	1	Boston College	D4c-14	D4c-Sea-14
46 Taylor, Mike	LB	6-2	222	1	Wisconsin	FA-14	FA-Sea-13
54 Wagner, Bobby	LB	6-0	241	3	Utah State	D2-12	D2-Sea-12
50 Wright, K.J.	LB	6-4	246	4	Mississippi State	D4a-11	D4a-Sea-11
DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
37 Bailey, Dion	FS	6-0	211	1	USC	FA-14	FA-Sea-14
24 Blackmon, Will	CB	6-0	204	8	Boston College	FA-Jac-15	D4-GB-06
28 Burley, Marcus	CB	5-11	185	2	Delaware	T-Ind-14	FA-Jac-13
31 Chancellor, Kam	SS	6-3	232	5	Virginia Tech	D5-10	D5-Sea-10
20 Lane, Jeremy	CB	6-0	190	3	Northwestern State	D6a-12	D6a-Sea-12
35 Shead, DeShawn	FS	6-2	220	3	Portland State	FA-12	FA-Sea-12
25 Sherman, Richard	CB	6-3	195	4	Stanford	D5a-11	D5a-Sea-11
27 Simon, Tharold	CB	6-3	202	2	LSU	D5b-13	D5b-Sea-13
26 Terrell, Steven	FS	5-10	197	2	Texas A&M	FA-14	FA-Jac-13
29 Thomas, Earl	FS	5-10	202	5	Texas	D1b-10	D1b-Sea-10
26 Williams, Cary	CB	6-1	190	6	Washburn	FA-Phi-15	D7-Ten-08
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
49 Gresham, Clint	LS	6-3	240	5	TCU	FA-10	FA-NO-10
4 Hauschka, Steven	K	6-4	210	7	NC State	W-Den-11	FA-Min-08
9 Ryan, Jon	P	6-0	217	9	Regina	FA-08	FA-GB-06

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
WR	89	Doug Baldwin
	83	Ricardo Lockette
WR	15	Jermaine Kearse
	13	Chris Matthews
LT	76	Russell Okung
	79	Garry Gilliam
LG	78	Alvin Bailey
	63	Mark Glowinski (R)
C	65	Patrick Lewis
	61	Lemuel Jeanpierre
RG	64	J.R. Sweezy
	63	C.J. Davis
RT	68	Justin Britt
	69	Terry Poole (R)
TE	88	Jimmy Graham
	82	Luke Willson
QB	3	Russell Wilson
	5	B.J. Daniels
FB	40	Derrick Coleman
	46	Will Tukuafu
RB	24	Marshawn Lynch
	22	Robert Turbin

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player
DE	72	Michael Bennett
	55	Frank Clark (R)
DT	99	Tony McDaniel
	92	Brandon Mebane
DT	97	Jordan Hill
	77	Ahtyba Rubin
DE	56	Cliff Avril
	98	Greg Scruggs
OLB	51	Bruce Irvin
	55	Heath Farwell
MLB	54	Bobby Wagner
	52	Brock Coyle
OLB	50	K.J. Wright
	58	Kevin Pierre-Louis
CB	25	Richard Sherman
	20	Jeremy Lane
CB	26	Cary Williams
	27	Tharold Simon
SS	31	Kam Chancellor
	36	Ryan Murphy (R)
FS	29	Earl Thomas
	35	DeShawn Shead

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Steven Hauschka
P	9	Jon Ryan
KR		Tyler Lockett (R)
PR	15	Jermaine Kearse

SCOUTING THE SEAHAWKS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP SEATTLE

"Don't expect a case of the Super Bowl 'blues' with this team. Pete Carroll and John Schneider really operate from the same sheet of music in terms of communicating their philosophy of competition and high energy for the entire organization. ... The Russell Wilson contract extension has been a theme of the offseason, but expect something to get done before they go to camp in late July (with maybe a precedent-setting fully guaranteed structure). ... Wilson is exceptionally instinctive as a player, and with the trade for tight end Jimmy Graham, he will have another option down the seam and on scrambles. ... Because of Graham's capacity to detach and play from the slot, his presence should create even more air inside the box for running back Marshawn Lynch. ... Defensive coordinator Dan Quinn departed for the Falcons' head coaching position, but Seattle still has talent at every level of the D. ... They have more of a 'rotational' front four now, but the linebackers complement each other well and play outstanding football. ... People around the league know exactly how good Bobby Wagner is. ... Earl Thomas and Kam Chancellor form the best safety tandem in the NFL. They are spectacular together, but of course, Thomas is coming off shoulder surgery and may not be available until October."

2015 SCHEDULE

Wk	Date	Opponent	Time	2014 Record	2014 NFL RANKINGS: Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
1	Sept. 13	at St. Louis	1:00	6-10	314.7 (28)	351.6 (17)	20.3 (20)	22.1 (16)
2	Sept. 20	at Green Bay	8:30	12-4	386.1 (6)	346.4 (15)	30.4 (1)	21.8 (13)
3	Sept. 27	Chicago	4:25	5-11	327.1 (21)	377.1 (30)	19.9 (23)	27.6 (31)
4	Oct. 5	Detroit (Mon.)	8:30	11-5	340.8 (19)	300.9 (2)	20.1 (22)	17.6 (2)
5	Oct. 11	at Cincinnati	1:00	10-5-1	348.0 (15)	359.3 (22)	22.8 (15)	21.5 (12)
6	Oct. 18	Carolina	4:05	7-8-1	346.7 (16)	339.8 (10)	21.2 (19)	23.4 (21)
7	Oct. 22	at San Francisco (Thu.)	8:25	8-8	327.4 (20)	321.4 (5)	19.1 (25)	21.3 (10)
8	Nov. 1	at Dallas	4:25	12-4	383.6 (7)	355.1 (19)	29.2 (5)	22.0 (15)
9		BYE						
10	Nov. 15	Arizona	8:30	11-5	319.8 (24)	368.2 (24)	19.4 (24)	18.7 (5)
11	Nov. 22	San Francisco	4:25	8-8	327.4 (20)	321.4 (5)	19.1 (25)	21.3 (10)
12	Nov. 29	Pittsburgh	4:25	11-5	411.1 (2)	353.4 (18)	27.3 (7)	23.0 (18)
13	Dec. 6	at Minnesota	1:00	7-9	315.5 (27)	344.7 (14)	20.3 (21)	21.4 (11)
14	Dec. 13	at Baltimore	8:30	10-6	364.9 (12)	336.9 (8)	25.6 (8)	18.9 (6)
15	Dec. 20	Cleveland	4:05	7-9	324.6 (23)	366.1 (23)	18.7 (27)	21.1 (9)
16	Dec. 27	St. Louis	4:25	6-10	314.7 (28)	351.6 (17)	20.3 (20)	22.1 (16)
17	Jan. 3	at Arizona	4:25	11-5	319.8 (24)	368.2 (24)	19.4 (24)	18.7 (5)

2014 NFL STATISTICS

NFL OFFENSE

	PPG	YPG	YPP	Rush-YPG	Pass-YPG	FD/G	3rd%	Sack
Green Bay Packers	30.4	386.1	6.2	266.3	119.8	22.3	47.2	30:32:00
Denver Broncos	30.1	402.9	6.0	291.3	111.6	22.5	44.1	30:45:00
Philadelphia Eagles	29.6	396.8	5.6	272.3	124.5	22.3	43.5	26:40:00
New England Patriots	29.3	365.5	5.5	257.6	107.9	22.6	44.3	29:36:00
Dallas Cowboys	29.2	383.6	6.1	236.5	147.1	21.4	47.3	32:50:00
Indianapolis Colts	28.6	406.6	5.9	305.9	100.8	23.2	41.0	31:54:00
Pittsburgh Steelers	27.3	411.1	6.2	301.6	109.5	23.7	44.7	32:24:00
Baltimore Ravens	25.6	364.9	5.7	238.7	126.2	21.6	41.0	29:39:00
New Orleans Saints	25.1	411.4	6.0	297.8	113.6	24.7	48.3	30:35:00
Seattle Seahawks	24.6	375.8	5.9	203.1	172.6	20.5	42.5	32:22:00
Miami Dolphins	24.3	350.1	5.4	233.1	117.0	22.6	40.0	30:07:00
Atlanta Falcons	23.8	378.2	5.8	284.6	93.6	20.6	44.3	29:27:00
New York Giants	23.8	367.2	5.4	267.0	100.2	21.0	43.0	30:44:00
Houston Texans	23.3	344.6	5.2	209.5	135.1	19.6	38.7	31:06:00
Cincinnati Bengals	22.8	348.0	5.5	213.8	134.2	19.6	39.8	30:31:00
Kansas City Chiefs	22.1	318.8	5.3	198.9	119.9	19.3	39.8	29:59:00
San Diego Chargers	21.8	341.6	5.4	256.1	85.4	20.4	45.1	30:58:00
Buffalo Bills	21.4	318.5	5.0	225.9	92.6	17.1	36.7	29:44:00
Carolina Panthers	21.2	346.7	5.2	219.4	127.3	21.7	41.9	32:16:00
Minnesota Vikings	20.3	315.5	5.1	202.8	112.8	18.0	38.9	28:52:00
St. Louis Rams	20.3	314.7	5.3	212.5	102.2	18.0	35.4	29:12:00
Detroit Lions	20.1	340.8	5.2	251.9	88.9	19.4	38.6	31:41:00
Chicago Bears	19.9	327.1	5.2	237.0	90.1	20.1	37.7	30:13:00
Arizona Cardinals	19.4	319.8	5.2	238.0	81.8	18.9	40.2	29:48:00
San Francisco 49ers	19.1	327.4	5.2	191.4	136.0	18.9	40.4	31:44:00
Washington Redskins	18.8	358.6	5.7	252.9	105.7	19.9	31.5	30:46:00
Cleveland Browns	18.7	324.6	5.1	216.6	108.0	18.4	29.5	28:12:00
New York Jets	17.7	326.6	5.0	184.1	142.5	18.1	38.9	31:01:00
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	17.3	292.0	5.0	206.1	85.9	16.4	37.4	27:17:00
Tennessee Titans	15.9	303.7	5.3	213.3	90.4	16.1	30.1	27:30:00
Oakland Raiders	15.8	282.2	4.5	204.7	77.5	15.5	33.9	28:20:00
Jacksonville Jaguars	15.6	289.6	4.7	187.6	102.1	16.9	31.9	27:11:00

NFL DEFENSE

	PPG	YPG	YPP	Rush-YPG	Pass-YPG	Int	DefTD	Sack
Seattle Seahawks	15.9	267.1	4.6	81.5	185.6	13	2	37
Kansas City Chiefs	17.6	330.5	5.2	127.3	203.3	6	1	46
Detroit Lions	17.6	300.9	4.9	69.3	231.6	20	2	42
Buffalo Bills	18.1	312.2	4.9	106.4	205.8	19	1	54
Arizona Cardinals	18.7	368.2	5.8	108.7	259.5	18	4	35
Baltimore Ravens	18.9	336.9	5.2	88.3	248.7	11	1	49
Houston Texans	19.2	348.2	5.2	105.1	243.1	20	5	38
New England Patriots	19.6	344.1	5.3	104.3	239.8	16	2	40
Cleveland Browns	21.1	366.1	5.2	141.6	224.5	21	3	31
San Francisco 49ers	21.3	321.4	5.2	100.8	220.7	23	3	36
Minnesota Vikings	21.4	344.7	5.4	121.4	223.3	13	3	41
Cincinnati Bengals	21.5	359.3	5.4	116.3	243.0	20	1	20
San Diego Chargers	21.8	338.3	5.5	124.1	214.2	7	3	26
Green Bay Packers	21.8	346.4	5.3	119.9	226.4	18	4	41
Dallas Cowboys	22.0	355.1	5.8	103.1	251.9	18	3	28
Denver Broncos	22.1	305.2	4.8	79.8	225.4	18	3	41
St. Louis Rams	22.1	351.6	5.6	110.3	241.3	13	3	40
Pittsburgh Steelers	23.0	353.4	6.0	100.3	253.1	11	5	33
Indianapolis Colts	23.1	342.7	5.4	113.4	229.3	12	2	41
Miami Dolphins	23.3	343.4	5.3	121.1	222.3	14	3	39
Carolina Panthers	23.4	339.8	5.4	112.0	227.8	14	2	40
New York Giants	25.0	375.8	6.0	135.1	240.6	17	1	47
Philadelphia Eagles	25.0	375.6	5.4	110.7	264.9	12	4	49
New York Jets	25.1	327.2	5.4	93.1	234.1	6	0	45
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	25.6	368.9	5.5	113.7	255.3	14	3	36
Jacksonville Jaguars	25.8	370.8	5.5	127.1	243.7	6	3	45
Atlanta Falcons	26.1	398.3	6.1	118.4	279.9	16	2	22
New Orleans Saints	26.5	384.0	6.0	132.8	251.2	12	0	34
Tennessee Titans	27.4	373.0	5.4	137.2	235.8	12	2	39
Washington Redskins	27.4	357.0	5.9	107.6	249.4	7	0	36
Chicago Bears	27.6	377.1	6.0	112.7	264.4	14	1	39
Oakland Raiders	28.3	357.6	5.5	119.4	238.1	9	1	22

2014 NFL STANDINGS

NFC

East	W-L	PF	PA	Home	Road	Div.
Dallas	12-4	467	352	4-4	8-0	4-2
Philadelphia	10-6	474	400	6-2	4-4	4-2
NY Giants	6-10	380	400	3-5	3-5	2-4
Washington	4-12	301	438	3-5	1-7	2-4

North	W-L	PF	PA	Home	Road	Div.
Green Bay	12-4	486	348	8-0	4-4	5-1
Detroit	11-5	321	282	7-1	4-4	5-1
Minnesota	7-9	325	343	5-3	2-6	1-5
Chicago	5-11	319	442	2-6	3-5	1-5

South	W-L	PF	PA	Home	Road	Div.
Carolina	7-8-1	339	374	4-4	3-4-1	4-2
New Orleans	7-9	401	424	3-5	4-4	3-3
Atlanta	6-10	381	417	3-5	3-5	5-1
Tampa Bay	2-14	277	410	0-8	2-6	0-6

West	W-L	PF	PA	Home	Road	Div.
Seattle	12-4	394	254	7-1	5-3	5-1
Arizona	11-5	310	299	7-1	4-4	3-3
San Francisco	8-8	306	340	4-4	4-4	2-4
St. Louis	6-10	324	354	3-5	3-5	2-4

AFC

East	W-L	PF	PA	Home	Road	Div.
New England	12-4	468	313	7-1	5-3	4-2
Buffalo	9-7	343	289	5-3	4-4	4-2
Miami	8-8	388	373	4-4	4-4	3-3
NY Jets	4-12	283	401	2-6	2-6	1-5

North	W-L	PF	PA	Home	Road	Div.
Pittsburgh	11-5	436	368	6-2	5-3	4-2
Cincinnati	10-5-1	365	344	5-2-1	5-3	3-3
Baltimore	10-6	409	302	6-2	4-4	3-3
Cleveland	7-9	299	337	4-4	3-5	2-4

South	W-L	PF	PA	Home	Road	Div.
Indianapolis	11-5	458	369	6-2	5-3	6-0
Houston	9-7	372	307	5-3	4-4	4-2
Jacksonville	3-13	249	412	3-5	0-8	1-5
Tennessee	2-14	254	438	1-7	1-7	1-5

West	W-L	PF	PA	Home	Road	Div.
Denver	12-4	482	354	8-0	4-4	6-0
Kansas City	9-7	353	281	6-2	3-5	3-3
San Diego	9-7	348	348	5-3	4-4	2-4
Oakland	3-13	253	452	3-5	0-8	1-5

2014 POSTSEASON

AFC Wild Card Playoff Games
Baltimore 30, PITTSBURGH 17
INDIANAPOLIS 26, Cincinnati 10

NFC Wild Card Playoff Games
CAROLINA 27, Arizona 16
DALLAS 24, Detroit 20

AFC Divisional Playoff Games
NEW ENGLAND 35, Baltimore 31
Indianapolis 24, DENVER 13

NFC Divisional Playoff Games
SEATTLE 31, Carolina 17
GREEN BAY 26, Dallas 21

AFC Championship Game
NEW ENGLAND 45, Indianapolis 7

NFC Championship Game
SEATTLE 28, Green Bay 22 (ot)

Super Bowl XLIX
New England 28, Seattle 24

Brees: Kyle Lanzer; Houston: Peter Brouillet; Quin: Tom Lynn

DREW BREES

NFL PASSING LEADERS

	Team	Yds	QBRat	Pct	Y/G	Y/A	TD	Int	Sack
Drew Brees	NO	4,952	97.0	69.2	309.5	7.5	33	17	29
Ben Roethlisberger	PIT	4,952	103.3	67.1	309.5	8.1	32	9	33
Andrew Luck	IND	4,761	96.5	61.7	297.6	7.7	40	16	27
Peyton Manning	DEN	4,727	101.5	66.2	295.4	7.9	39	15	17
Matt Ryan	ATL	4,694	93.9	66.1	293.4	7.5	28	14	31
Eli Manning	NYG	4,410	92.1	63.1	275.6	7.3	30	14	28
Aaron Rodgers	GB	4,381	112.2	65.6	273.8	8.4	38	5	28
Philip Rivers	SD	4,286	93.8	66.5	267.9	7.5	31	18	36
Matthew Stafford	DET	4,257	85.7	60.3	266.1	7.1	22	12	45
Tom Brady	NE	4,109	97.4	64.1	256.8	7.1	33	9	21
Ryan Tannehill	MIA	4,045	92.8	66.4	252.8	6.9	27	12	46
Joe Flacco	BAL	3,986	91.0	62.1	249.1	7.2	27	12	19
Jay Cutler	CHI	3,812	88.6	66.0	254.1	6.8	28	18	38
Tony Romo	DAL	3,705	113.2	69.9	247.0	8.5	34	9	29
Russell Wilson	SEA	3,475	95.0	63.1	217.2	7.7	20	7	42
Andy Dalton	CIN	3,398	83.5	64.2	212.4	7.1	19	17	21
Colin Kaepernick	SF	3,369	86.4	60.5	210.6	7.0	19	10	52
Brian Hoyer	CLE	3,326	76.5	55.3	237.6	7.6	12	13	24
Derek Carr	OAK	3,270	76.6	58.1	204.4	5.5	21	12	24
Alex Smith	KAN	3,265	93.4	65.3	217.7	7.0	18	6	45
Cam Newton	CAR	3,127	82.1	58.5	223.4	7.0	18	12	38
Kyle Orton	BUF	3,018	87.8	64.2	251.5	6.8	18	10	33
Teddy Bridgewater	MIN	2,919	85.2	64.4	224.5	7.3	14	12	39
Blake Bortles	JAC	2,908	69.5	58.9	207.7	6.1	11	17	55
Geno Smith	NYJ	2,525	77.5	59.7	180.4	6.9	13	13	28
Ryan Fitzpatrick	HOU	2,483	95.3	63.1	206.9	8.0	17	8	21
Mark Sanchez	PHI	2,418	88.4	64.1	268.7	7.8	14	11	23
Josh McCown	TB	2,206	70.5	56.3	200.5	6.7	11	14	36
Nick Foles	PHI	2,163	81.4	59.8	270.4	7.0	13	10	9
Austin Davis	STL	2,001	85.1	63.4	200.1	7.0	12	9	29
Drew Stanton	ARI	1,711	78.7	55.0	190.1	7.1	7	5	11
Kirk Cousins	WAS	1,710	86.4	61.8	285.0	8.4	10	9	8
Robert Griffin III	WAS	1,694	86.9	68.7	188.2	7.9	4	6	33
Shaun Hill	STL	1,657	83.9	63.3	184.1	7.2	8	7	18
Carson Palmer	ARI	1,626	95.6	62.9	271.0	7.3	11	3	9
Mike Glennon	TAM	1,417	83.3	57.6	236.2	7.0	10	6	16
Zach Mettenberger	TEN	1,412	83.4	59.8	201.7	7.9	8	7	18
Charlie Whitehurst	TEN	1,326	87.4	56.8	189.4	7.2	7	2	18
Colt McCoy	WAS	1,057	96.4	71.1	211.4	8.3	4	3	17
Jake Locker	TEN	993	70.9	58.9	141.9	6.8	5	7	14
EJ Manuel	BUF	838	80.3	58.0	167.6	6.4	5	3	6
Derek Anderson	CAR	701	105.2	67.0	116.8	7.2	5	0	4
Michael Vick	NYJ	604	68.3	52.9	60.4	5.0	3	2	19
Ryan Lindley	ARI	562	56.8	48.4	187.3	6.0	2	4	6
Chad Henne	JAC	492	80.7	53.8	164.0	6.3	3	1	16
Case Keenum	HOU	435	72.2	58.4	217.5	5.6	2	2	3
Matt Cassel	MIN	425	65.8	57.7	141.7	6.0	3	4	6
Ryan Mallett	HOU	400	67.6	54.7	133.3	5.3	2	2	1
Brandon Weeden	DAL	303	85.7	58.5	60.6	7.4	3	2	1
Matt Hasselbeck	IND	301	102.6	68.2	75.3	6.8	2	0	2

NFL SACK LEADERS

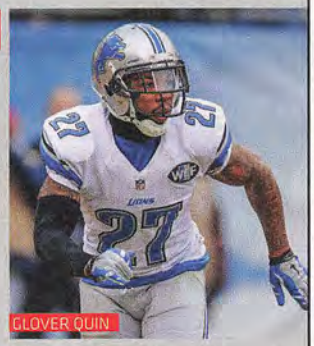
Justin Houston, LB	KC	22.0
J.J. Watt, DE	HOU	20.5
Elvis Dumervil, LB	BAL	17.0
Mario Williams, DE	BUF	14.5
Connor Barwin, LB	PHI	14.5
Von Miller, LB	DEN	14.0
Ryan Kerrigan, LB	WAS	13.5
Jason Pierre-Paul, DE	NYG	12.5
Terrell Suggs, LB	BAL	12.0
Everson Griffen, DE	MIN	12.0
Cameron Wake, DE	MIA	11.5
Paul Kruger, LB	CLE	11.0
Clay Matthews, LB	GB	11.0
Robert Quinn, DE	STL	10.5
DeMarcus Ware, DE	DEN	10.0
Willie Young, DE	CHI	10.0
Junior Galette, LB	NO	10.0
Marcell Dareus, DT	BUF	10.0
Jerry Hughes, DE	BUF	9.5
Vinny Curry, DE	PHI	9.0
Aaron Donald, DT	STL	9.0
Charles Johnson, DE	CAR	8.5
Sen'Derrick Marks, DT	JAX	8.5
Ndamukong Suh, DT	DET	8.5
Gerald McCoy, DT	TB	8.5
Chris Clemons, DE	JAX	8.0
Rob Ninkovich, DE	NE	8.0
Carlos Dunlap, DE	CIN	8.0
Sheldon Richardson, DT	NYJ	8.0
Alex Okafor, LB	ARI	8.0
Jason Worilds, LB	PIT	7.5
Cameron Jordan, DE	NO	7.5
Cameron Heyward, DE	PIT	7.5
Pernell McPhee, LB	BAL	7.5

JUSTIN HOUSTON

Ezekiel Ansah, DE	DET	7.5
Julius Peppers, LB	GB	7.0
Calais Campbell, DE	ARI	7.0
Michael Bennett, DE	SEA	7.0
Johnathan Hankins, DT	NYG	7.0
Trent Cole, DE	PHI	6.5
Jeremiah Ratliff, NT	CHI	6.5
Derrick Morgan, LB	TEN	6.5
Mario Addison, DE	CAR	6.5
Quinton Coples, LB	NYJ	6.5
Bruce Irvin, LB	SEA	6.5
Olivier Vernon, DE	MIA	6.5
Ryan Davis, DE	JAX	6.5
Jacquies Smith, DE	TB	6.5
Tom Johnson, DT	MIN	6.5
Jonathan Newsome, LB	IND	6.5
Tamba Hali, LB	KC	6.0
Jeremy Mincey, DE	DAL	6.0
Ahmad Brooks, LB	SF	6.0
David Harris, LB	NYJ	6.0
Erik Walden, LB	IND	6.0
George Johnson, DE	DET	6.0
Stephen Paea, DT	CHI	6.0
Chandler Jones, DE	NE	6.0
Dont'a Hightower, LB	NE	6.0
Dontari Poe, DT	KC	6.0
Aaron Lynch, LB	SF	6.0

NFL INT LEADERS

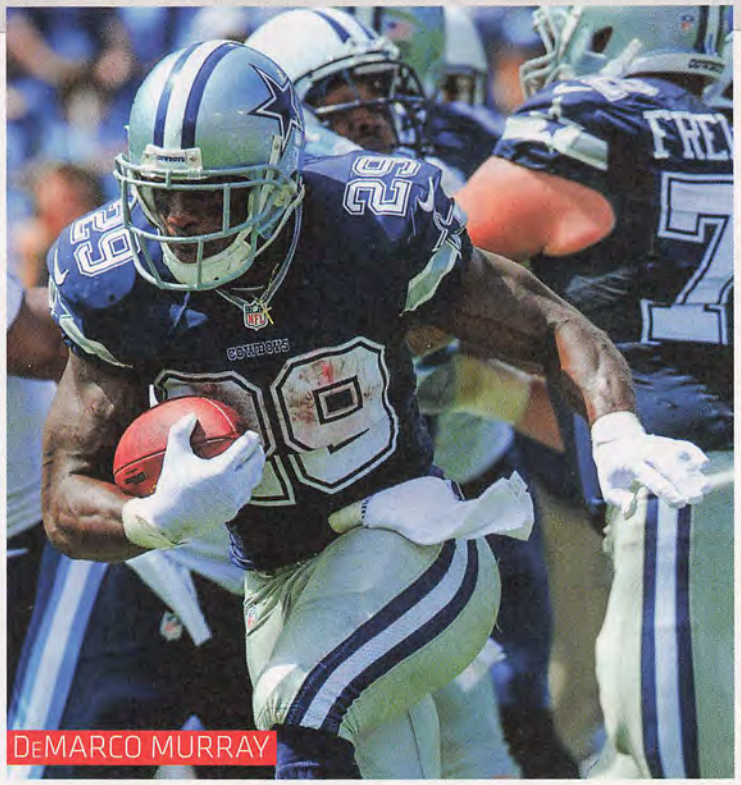
Glover Quin, S	DET	7
Tashaun Gipson, DB	CLE	6
Mike Adams, SS	IND	5
Brent Grimes, CB	MIA	5
Perrish Cox, DB	SF	5
Bruce Carter, LB	DAL	5
Harrison Smith, S	MIN	5
Charles Woodson, S	OAK	4
Roman Harper, S	CAR	4
Antoine Bethea, S	SF	4
Reggie Nelson, S	CIN	4
James Ihedigbo, S	DET	4
Leodis McKelvin, CB	BUF	4
Aqib Talib, CB	DEN	4
Quintin Demps, S	NYG	4
Ryan Mundy, S	CHI	4
Vontae Davis, CB	IND	4
Rashad Johnson, S	ARI	4
Nate Allen, S	PHI	4
Chris Culliver, CB	SF	4
Rahim Moore, S	DEN	4
Richard Sherman, CB	SEA	4
Buster Skrine, CB	CLE	4
Johnthan Banks, CB	TB	4
Kemal Ishmael, S	ATL	4
Kyle Fuller, CB	CHI	4
Tramon Williams, CB	GB	3
Adam Jones, CB	CIN	3
Antrel Rolle, S	NYG	3
Antonio Cromartie, CB	ARI	3
William Gay, CB	PIT	3
Brandon Flowers, CB	SD	3
Danny Lansanah, LB	TB	3
Malcolm Jenkins, S	PHI	3
Brice McCain, CB	PIT	3


GLOVER QUIN

Jason McCourty, CB	TEN	3
Jerraud Powers, CB	ARI	3
Joe Haden, DB	CLE	3
Kareem Jackson, DB	HOU	3
Kurt Coleman, S	KC	3
Reshad Jones, S	MIA	3
Prince Amukamara, CB	NYG	3
Patrick Peterson, CB	ARI	3
Chris Conte, S	CHI	3
Da'Norris Searcy, DB	BUF	3
Chris Harris Jr., CB	DEN	3
Dre Kirkpatrick, CB	CIN	3
Stephon Gilmore, CB	BUF	3
Josh Robinson, CB	MIN	3
Casey Hayward, CB	GB	3
Trumaine Johnson, CB	STL	3
George Iloka, S	CIN	3
Eric Reid, S	SF	3
Desmond Trufant, CB	ATL	3
Robert Alford, CB	ATL	3
J.J. Wilcox, S	DAL/NO	3
Jumal Rolle, DB	GB/HOU	3
A.J. Bouye, CB	HOU	3

NFL RUSHING LEADERS

	Team	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	YPG	Fum
DeMarco Murray	DAL	392	1,845	4.7	13	115.3	5
Le'Veon Bell	PIT	290	1,361	4.7	8	85.1	0
LeSean McCoy	PHI	312	1,319	4.2	5	82.4	3
Marshawn Lynch	SEA	280	1,306	4.7	13	81.6	2
Justin Forsett	BAL	235	1,266	5.4	8	79.1	0
Arian Foster	HOU	260	1,246	4.8	8	95.8	2
Eddie Lacy	GB	246	1,139	4.6	9	71.2	2
Jeremy Hill	CIN	222	1,124	5.1	9	70.3	2
Frank Gore	SF	255	1,106	4.3	4	69.1	2
Lamar Miller	MIA	216	1,099	5.1	8	68.7	3
Alfred Morris	WAS	265	1,074	4.1	8	67.1	0
Matt Forté	CHI	266	1,038	3.9	6	64.9	2
Jamaal Charles	KC	206	1,033	5.0	9	68.9	3
Mark Ingram	NO	226	964	4.3	9	74.2	1
Joique Bell	DET	223	860	3.9	7	57.3	1
C.J. Anderson	DEN	179	849	4.7	8	56.6	0
Chris Ivory	NYJ	198	821	4.1	6	51.3	1
Jonathan Stewart	CAR	175	809	4.6	3	62.2	1
Tre Mason	STL	179	765	4.3	4	63.8	1
Andre Williams	NYG	217	721	3.3	7	45.1	0
Steven Jackson	ATL	190	707	3.7	6	47.1	0
Giovani Bernard	CIN	168	680	4.0	5	52.3	0
Terrance West	CLE	171	673	3.9	4	48.1	1
Chris Johnson	NYJ	155	663	4.3	1	41.4	1
Andre Ellington	ARI	201	660	3.3	3	55.0	2
Rashad Jennings	NYG	167	639	3.8	4	58.1	1
Isaiah Crowell	CLE	148	607	4.1	8	37.9	2
Denard Robinson	JAC	135	582	4.3	4	44.8	2
Branden Oliver	SD	160	582	3.6	3	41.6	0
Matt Asiata	MIN	164	570	3.5	9	38.0	1


DEMARCO MURRAY

NFL RECEIVING LEADERS

	Team	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	20+	YPG
Antonio Brown, WR	PIT	129	1,698	13.2	13	63	19	106.1
Demaryius Thomas, WR	DEN	111	1,619	14.6	11	86	25	101.2
Julio Jones, WR	ATL	104	1,593	15.3	6	79	31	106.2
Jordy Nelson, WR	GB	98	1,519	15.5	13	80	19	94.9
Emmanuel Sanders, WR	DEN	101	1,404	13.9	9	48	24	87.8
T.Y. Hilton, WR	IND	82	1,345	16.4	7	73	21	89.7
Golden Tate, WR	DET	99	1,331	13.4	4	73	17	83.2
Dez Bryant, WR	DAL	88	1,320	15.0	16	68	22	82.5
Jeremy Maclin, WR	PHI	85	1,318	15.5	10	72	21	82.4
Odell Beckham Jr., WR	NYG	91	1,305	14.3	12	80	16	108.8
Randall Cobb, WR	GB	91	1,287	14.1	12	70	24	80.4
DeAndre Hopkins, WR	HOU	76	1,210	15.9	6	76	20	75.6
DeSean Jackson, WR	WAS	56	1,169	20.9	6	81	16	77.9
Alshon Jeffery, WR	CHI	85	1,133	13.3	10	74	17	70.8
Rob Gronkowski, TE	NE	82	1,124	13.7	12	46	19	74.9
Calvin Johnson, WR	DET	71	1,077	15.2	8	67	16	82.8
Steve Smith Sr., WR	BAL	79	1,065	13.5	6	80	15	66.6
Anquan Boldin, WR	SF	83	1,062	12.8	5	76	14	66.4
Mike Evans, WR	TB	68	1,051	15.5	12	56	20	70.1
A.J. Green, WR	CIN	69	1,041	15.1	6	81	13	80.1
Greg Olsen, TE	CAR	84	1,008	12.0	6	38	9	63
Kelvin Benjamin, WR	CAR	73	1,008	13.8	9	51	14	63
Vincent Jackson, WR	TB	70	1,002	14.3	2	50	12	62.6
Sammy Watkins, WR	BUF	65	982	15.1	6	84	14	61.4
Julian Edelman, WR	NE	92	972	10.6	4	69	7	69.4
Eric Decker, WR	NYJ	74	962	13.0	5	74	12	64.1
Brandon LaFell, WR	NE	74	953	12.9	7	56	10	59.6
Rueben Randle, WR	NYG	71	938	13.2	3	49	12	58.6
Andre Johnson, WR	HOU	85	936	11.0	3	35	14	62.4
Kenny Stills, WR	NO	63	931	14.8	3	69	10	62.1
Roddy White, WR	ATL	80	921	11.5	7	39	14	65.8
Martellus Bennett, TE	CHI	90	916	10.2	6	37	11	57.3
Marques Colston, WR	NO	59	902	15.3	5	57	17	56.4
Delanie Walker, TE	TEN	63	890	14.1	4	68	13	59.3
Jimmy Graham, TE	NO	85	889	10.5	10	29	8	55.6
Jordan Matthews, WR	PHI	67	872	13.0	8	44	16	54.5
Mike Wallace, WR	MIA	67	862	12.9	10	50	10	53.9
Travis Kelce, TE	KC	67	862	12.9	5	34	15	53.9
Malcom Floyd, WR	SD	52	856	16.5	6	59	13	53.5
Le'Veon Bell, RB	PIT	83	854	10.3	3	48	10	53.4
Michael Floyd, WR	ARI	47	841	17.9	6	63	15	52.6
Doug Baldwin, WR	SEA	66	825	12.5	3	49	15	51.6
Andrew Hawkins, WR	CLE	63	824	13.1	2	65	13	54.9

	Team	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	20+	YPG
Antonio Gates, TE	SD	69	821	11.9	12	34	12	51.3
Matt Forté, RB	CHI	102	808	7.9	4	56	7	50.5
Mohamed Sanu, WR	CIN	56	790	14.1	5	76	9	49.4
Larry Fitzgerald, WR	ARI	63	784	12.4	2	80	11	56.0
Keenan Allen, WR	SD	77	783	10.2	4	35	6	55.9
Reggie Wayne, WR	IND	64	779	12.2	2	80	10	51.9
Eddie Royal, WR	SD	62	778	12.5	7	47	14	48.6
Coby Fleener, TE	IND	51	774	15.2	8	73	16	48.4
Torrey Smith, WR	BAL	49	767	15.7	11	53	13	47.9
Heath Miller, TE	PIT	66	761	11.5	3	49	8	47.6
Jarvis Landry, WR	MIA	84	758	9.0	5	25	6	47.4
Dwayne Bowe, WR	KC	60	754	12.6	0	37	9	50.3
Pierre Garcon, WR	WAS	68	752	11.1	3	70	8	47.0
Kenny Britt, WR	STL	48	748	15.6	3	63	13	46.8
Greg Jennings, WR	MIN	59	742	12.6	6	38	9	46.4
Brandon Marshall, WR	CHI	61	721	11.8	8	47	5	55.5
Kendall Wright, WR	TEN	57	715	12.5	6	48	10	51.1
Jason Witten, TE	DAL	64	703	11.0	5	34	7	43.9
Zach Ertz, TE	PHI	58	702	12.1	3	35	9	43.9
Robert Woods, WR	BUF	65	699	10.8	5	37	11	43.7
Michael Crabtree, WR	SF	68	698	10.3	4	51	10	43.6
John Brown, WR	ARI	48	696	14.5	5	75	11	43.5
Andre Holmes, WR	OAK	47	693	14.7	4	77	9	43.3
Allen Hurns, WR	JAX	51	677	13.3	6	63	11	42.3
James Jones, WR	OAK	73	666	9.1	6	42	6	41.6
Nate Washington, WR	TEN	40	647	16.2	2	80	11	40.4
Markus Wheaton, WR	PIT	53	644	12.2	2	47	5	40.3
Jared Cook, TE	STL	52	634	12.2	3	59	7	39.6
Larry Donnell, TE	NYG	63	623	9.9	6	32	5	38.9
Terrance Williams, WR	DAL	37	621	16.8	8	51	10	38.8
Taylor Gabriel, WR	CLE	36	621	17.3	1	70	10	38.8
Charles Clay, TE	MIA	58	605	10.4	3	41	9	43.2
Jarius Wright, WR	MIN	42	588	14.0	2	87	9	36.8
Jerricho Cotchery, WR	CAR	48	580	12.1	1	47	7	38.7
Riley Cooper, WR	PHI	55	577	10.5	3	50	5	36.1
Miles Austin, WR	CLE	47	568	12.1	2	31	7	47.3
Cecil Shorts, WR	JAX	53	557	10.5	1	53	7	42.8
Harry Douglas, WR	ATL	51	556	10.9	2	41	3	46.3
Brandin Cooks, WR	NO	53	550	10.4	3	50	4	55.0
Martavis Bryant, WR	PIT	26	549	21.1	8	94	8	54.9
Allen Robinson, WR	JAX	48	548	11.4	2	54	5	54.8
Jermaine Kearse, WR	SEA	38	537	14.1	1	60	7	35.8
Mychal Rivera, TE	OAK	58	534	9.2	4	33	6	33.4

Murray: Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports; Brown: Tom DiPace

NFL RUSHING LEADERS

	Team	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	YPG	Fum
Bishop Sankey	TEN	152	569	3.7	2	35.6	2
LeGarrette Blount	NE	125	547	4.4	5	34.2	1
Jerick McKinnon	MIN	113	538	4.8	0	48.9	0
Darren McFadden	OAK	155	534	3.4	2	33.4	1
Alfred Blue	HOU	169	528	3.1	2	33.0	0
Fred Jackson	BUF	141	525	3.7	2	37.5	0
Trent Richardson	IND	159	519	3.3	3	34.6	1
Doug Martin	TB	134	494	3.7	2	44.9	0
Knile Davis	KC	134	463	3.5	6	28.9	2
Ronnie Hillman	DEN	106	434	4.1	3	54.3	0
Boobie Dixon	BUF	105	432	4.1	2	27.0	0
Ahmad Bradshaw	IND	90	425	4.7	2	42.5	2
Latavius Murray	OAK	82	424	5.2	2	28.3	0
Jonas Gray	NE	89	412	4.6	5	51.5	0
Bobby Rainey	TB	94	406	4.3	1	27.1	3
Shonn Greene	TEN	94	392	4.2	2	30.2	1
Shane Vereen	NE	96	391	4.1	2	24.4	0
Ben Tate	CLE	119	371	3.1	4	33.7	0
Bernard Pierce	BAL	93	366	3.9	2	28.2	1
Khiry Robinson	NO	76	362	4.8	3	36.2	1
Daniel Herron	IND	78	351	4.5	1	21.9	2
Joseph Randle	DAL	51	343	6.7	3	21.4	2
Stevan Ridley	NE	94	340	3.6	2	56.7	0
James Starks	GB	85	333	3.9	2	20.8	0
Carlos Hyde	SFO	83	333	4.0	4	23.8	1
Ryan Mathews	SD	74	330	4.5	3	55.0	0
Darren Sproles	PHI	57	329	5.8	6	21.9	1
Toby Gerhart	JAC	101	326	3.2	2	23.3	1
Robert Turbin	SEA	74	310	4.2	0	19.4	1
C.J. Spiller	BUF	78	300	3.8	0	33.3	1

	Team	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	YPG	Fum
Reggie Bush	DET	76	297	3.9	2	27.0	0
Zac Stacy	STL	76	293	3.9	1	22.5	2
Lorenzo Taliaferro	BAL	68	292	4.3	4	22.5	1
Juwan Thompson	DEN	54	272	5.0	3	18.1	0
Devonta Freeman	ATL	65	248	3.8	1	15.5	1
Kerwynn Williams	ARI	53	246	4.6	0	49.2	0
Benny Cunningham	STL	66	246	3.7	3	15.4	1
Donald Brown	SD	85	223	2.6	0	17.2	0
Pierre Thomas	NO	45	222	4.9	2	20.2	0
DeAngelo Williams	CAR	62	219	3.5	0	36.5	1
Jacquizz Rodgers	ATL	58	217	3.7	1	13.6	0
Roy Helu Jr.	WAS	40	216	5.4	1	15.4	1
Stepfan Taylor	ARI	63	208	3.3	1	14.9	0
Jordan Todman	JAC	32	186	5.8	1	11.6	0
Charles Sims	TB	66	185	2.8	1	23.1	1
Christine Michael	SEA	34	175	5.1	0	17.5	0
Chris Polk	PHI	46	172	3.7	4	12.3	0
Montee Ball	DEN	55	172	3.1	1	34.4	1
Daniel Thomas	MIA	44	168	3.8	2	14.0	1
Ka'Deem Carey	CHI	36	158	4.4	0	11.3	0
Jonathan Grimes	HOU	39	153	3.9	0	9.6	0
Knowshon Moreno	MIA	31	148	4.8	1	49.3	0
Fozzy Whittaker	CAR	32	145	4.5	1	14.5	0
Antone Smith	ATL	23	144	6.3	2	14.4	1
Bilal Powell	NYJ	33	141	4.3	1	9.4	0
Dexter McCluster	TEN	40	131	3.3	0	9.4	0
Bryce Brown	BUF	36	126	3.5	0	18.0	1
Damien Williams	MIA	36	122	3.4	0	7.6	0
Peyton Hillis	NYG	26	115	4.4	0	12.8	0
De'Anthony Thomas	KC	14	113	8.1	1	9.4	0

NFL RECEIVING LEADERS

	Team	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	20+	YPG
Owen Daniels, TE	BAL	48	527	11.0	4	39	5	35.1
Niles Paul, TE	WAS	39	507	13.0	1	50	7	31.7
Devin Hester, WR	ATL	38	504	13.3	2	46	7	31.5
Fred Jackson, RB	BUF	66	501	7.6	1	34	6	35.8
Justin Hunter, WR	TEN	28	498	17.8	3	75	7	41.5
Scott Chandler, TE	BUF	47	497	10.6	3	37	9	31.1
Julius Thomas, TE	DEN	43	489	11.4	12	35	7	37.6
Roy Helu, RB	WAS	42	477	11.4	2	55	10	34.1
Charles Johnson, WR	MIN	31	475	15.3	2	56	9	39.6
Brian Hartline, WR	MIA	39	474	12.2	2	35	4	29.6
Jordan Reed, TE	WAS	50	465	9.3	0	30	4	42.3
Wes Welker, WR	DEN	49	464	9.5	2	39	5	33.1
Jermaine Gresham, TE	CIN	62	460	7.4	5	23	2	30.7
Andre Roberts, WR	WAS	36	453	12.6	2	61	7	28.3
Shane Vereen, RB	NE	52	447	8.6	3	49	4	27.9
Davante Adams, WR	GB	38	446	11.7	3	45	5	27.9
Donte Moncrief, WR	IND	32	444	13.9	3	79	7	27.8
Stevie Johnson, WR	SF	35	435	12.4	3	32	8	33.5
Stedman Bailey, WR	STL	30	435	14.5	1	38	6	31.1
Eddie Lacy, RB	GB	42	427	10.2	4	67	4	26.7
Chris Hogan, WR	BUF	41	426	10.4	4	31	5	26.6
Jordan Cameron, TE	CLE	24	424	17.7	2	81	8	42.4
Marqise Lee, WR	JAX	37	422	11.4	1	37	6	32.5
Cole Beasley, WR	DAL	37	420	11.4	4	45	4	26.3
Preston Parker, WR	NYG	36	418	11.6	2	42	4	26.1
DeMarco Murray, RB	DAL	57	416	7.3	0	34	3	26.0
Jeremy Kerley, WR	NYJ	38	409	10.8	1	33	3	25.6
Hakeem Nicks, WR	IND	38	405	10.7	4	29	7	25.3
Dwayne Allen, TE	IND	29	395	13.6	8	41	6	30.4
Andre Ellington, RB	ARI	46	395	8.6	2	81	4	32.9
Darren Sproles, RB	PHI	40	387	9.7	0	57	4	25.8
Cordarrelle Patterson, WR	MIN	33	384	11.6	1	28	4	24.0
Louis Murphy, WR	TB	31	380	12.3	2	54	6	34.5
Pierre Thomas, RB	NO	45	378	8.4	1	39	2	34.4
Brian Quick, WR	STL	25	375	15.0	3	51	5	53.6
Marshawn Lynch, RB	SEA	37	367	9.9	4	39	5	22.9
Luke Willson, TE	SEA	22	362	16.5	3	80	7	24.1
Benjamin Cunningham, RB	STL	45	352	7.8	1	19	0	22.0
John Carlson, TE	ARI	33	350	10.6	1	32	4	21.9
Percy Harvin, WR	NYJ/SEA	29	350	12.1	1	45	5	43.8
Giovani Bernard, RB	CIN	43	349	8.1	2	46	4	26.8
Jace Amaro, TE	NYJ	38	345	9.1	2	43	4	24.6
Brent Celek, TE	PHI	32	340	10.6	1	37	6	21.3

ANTONIO BROWN

	Team	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	20+	YPG
Victor Cruz, WR	NYG	23	337	14.7	1	61	7	56.2
Damaris Johnson, WR	HOU	31	331	10.7	1	44	4	20.7
Arian Foster, RB	HOU	38	327	8.6	5	56	3	25.2
C.J. Anderson, RB	DEN	34	324	9.5	2	51	4	21.6
Andrew Quarless, TE	GB	29	323	11.1	3	34	3	20.2
Joique Bell, RB	DET	34	322	9.5	1	28	3	21.5
Theo Riddick, RB	DET	34	316	9.3	4	41	3	22.6
Bobby Rainey, RB	TB	33	315	9.5	1	34	2	21.0
Jeremy Ross, WR	CHI/DET	24	314	13.1	1	59	4	19.6
Travis Benjamin, WR	CLE	18	314	17.4	3	43	8	19.6
Matt Asiata, RB	MIN	44	312	7.1	1	41	2	20.8
Josh Gordon, WR	CLE	24	303	12.6	0	32	3	60.6

THE BACK PAGE

2014 WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT...

By Bruce Herman

A TEAM

» Won a game by 17 points after being shut out by at least that many points in the first half (Eagles over Jaguars).

» Shoveled itself out of 14-point second-half deficits to win each of its first two games of the year (Eagles).

» Opened a season 3–0 despite trailing in each game by at least 10 points (Eagles).

» Won a game on the road that it once trailed by 25 points (Browns).

» Fielded a running back who rushed for four touchdowns (Marshawn Lynch) and a quarterback who rushed for 100 yards (Russell Wilson) in the same game (Seahawks).

» Lost at least nine of its first 10 games for a third consecutive season (Jaguars).

» Scored 28 or more first-half points in four consecutive home games (Packers).

» Won three games in a row by 20 or more points against teams who were at least three games over .500 (Patriots).

» Fielded a rookie rusher (Andre Williams) and a rookie receiver (Odell Beckham Jr.) who each piled up at least 130 yards in the same game (Giants).

» Went 14 consecutive seasons without being swept in a multiple-game series by a team in its own division (Patriots).

» Allowed an opposing QB to complete 80 percent of its passes and throw for three TDs in three games of a season (Bears).

» Rushed for as many as 355 yards and lost (49ers).

» Had two different backs who broke runs of 85 yards or longer in the same season (Bengals: Gio Bernard and Jeremy Hill).

» From the NFC South won its division for a second straight year (Panthers).

» Got a non-offensive TD from 10 different players (Eagles).

» Limited another team to as few as 78 yards in a postseason game (Panthers vs. Cardinals).

» Dropped a fourth consecutive opening-round playoff game (Bengals).

» Fell to 0–7 in postseason road contests (Bengals).

» Overcame a deficit as large as 16 points to win a conference title game (Seahawks).

» Blew a fourth-quarter lead as large as 10 points to lose a Super Bowl (Seahawks).

A QUARTERBACK

» Passed for 400 yards for the 14th time in a career (Peyton Manning).

» Compiled a TD-to-INT ratio as high as 18-to-1 the first seven games of a season (Aaron Rodgers).

» Threw a fifth TD pass less than 20 minutes into a game (Joe Flacco).

» Passed for 300 yards and rushed for 100 in the same game (Russell Wilson).

» Completed more than 85 percent of his passes (min. 20 atts.) in a game against a defending Super Bowl champion (Austin Davis).

» Completed seven game-winning TD passes inside the two-minute warning in his first six seasons (Matthew Stafford).

» Who attempted 40 or more passes in a game posted a rating above 150.0.

» Charted two 500-yard aerial games in a career.

» Threw for six TDs in back-to-back games.

» Passed for 350-plus yards in five consecutive road games (Andrew Luck).

» Completed at least five TD passes in a game nine times in a career (Manning and Drew Brees).

» Threw 418 consecutive passes without an interception in home games (Rodgers; still active).

» Threw for at least three TDs without being picked off in four straight road games (Tony Romo).

» Lost his first 20 road starts against teams that finished with a winning record (Ryan Fitzpatrick).

» Attained a 100.0 passer rating in a sixth consecutive season (Rodgers).

» Lost nine one-and-done starts in the postseason (Manning).

» Started two Super Bowls in his first three seasons (Wilson).

» Started six Super Bowls (Tom Brady).

A RUNNING BACK

» Rushed for more than 525 yards in his first three games facing a specific team (DeMarco Murray vs. St. Louis).

» Began a season with eight consecutive 100-yard games (Murray).

» Caught 102 passes in a season (Matt Forte).

» Rushed for seven career TDs against one particular team in postseason play (LeGarrette Blount vs. Colts).

A RECEIVER

» Made at least five catches for 50 or more yards in 32 consecutive games (Antonio Brown).

» Age 35 or older caught 400 yards worth of passes in his first four games (Steve Smith).

» Went more than nine years between 80-yard touchdown catches (Brandon Lloyd).

» Caught a dozen or more TD passes from the tight end position in successive seasons (Julius Thomas).

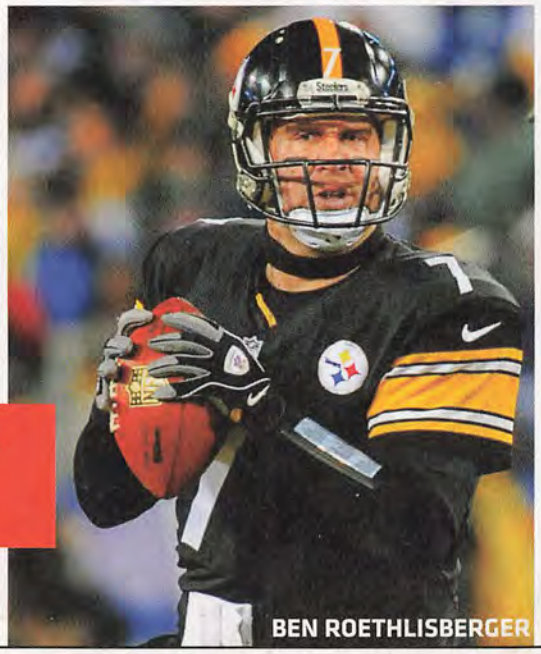
» Collected more than 100 yards in a season debut that was as late as Week 12 (Josh Gordon).

» Got to 10,000 yards in as few as 115 games (Calvin Johnson).

» Age 36 or older caught a pass of at least 80 yards (Reggie Wayne).

» Threw a TD pass of longer than 50 yards in a postseason game (Julian Edelman).

» Scored an overtime TD on the only pass he caught in a playoff contest (Jermaine Kearse).



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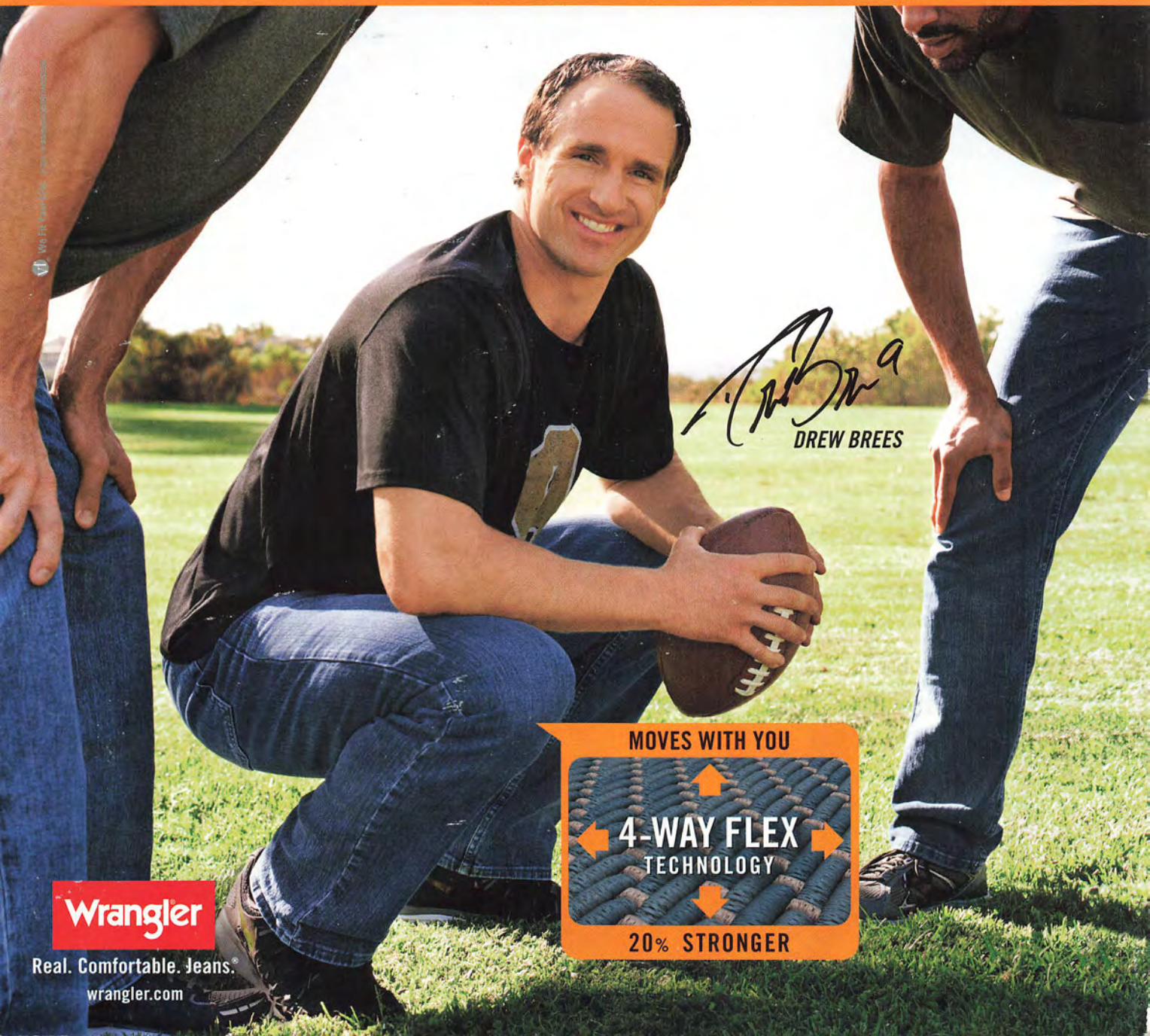
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